

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EPC:MTG

April 24, 1939

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nease
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Cross
Mr. Egan
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McEntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn-Turpin
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN

Re: Death Mask of "Doc" Barker

Reference is made to my memorandum of April 20, 1939, concerning the "Doc" Barker death mask received from San Francisco. Several copies of this mask have been very successfully made in the Laboratory.

Pending further instructions as to disposition the original death mask is being placed for safe keeping in the glass exhibit case on moulage in the front exhibit room of the Laboratory.

For the present time I am not labeling this exhibit and Bureau instructions are requested as to whether the same should carry a label indicating it to be a death mask of "Doc" Barker.

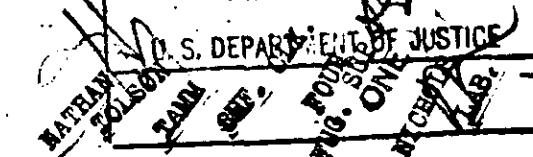
Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

76-475-38

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 2 1939	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
NATHAN	RECEIVED
COLSON	SEARCHED
JAN	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	

Doc to objection
E.P.C. 1/29/39



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 76-347

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.	DATE WHEN MADE 5-28-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-22; 4-18-41	REPORT MADE BY H. P. WINTER LDJ
TITLE ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias Doc, (Deceased) DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN, HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN		CHARACTER OF CASE ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS	
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>U. S. Attorney San Francisco advises no prosecution will take place in this case inasmuch as he has been so advised by James V. Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>dictated 4/13/41</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-C-</p>			
<p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent A. E. Farland, dated March 21, 1939, at San Francisco.</p>			
<p>DETAILS: <u>AT SAN FRANCISCO:</u></p> <p>By letter dated March 22, 1941, the San Francisco Field Division requested U. S. District Attorney FRANK J. HENNESSY, San Francisco, that he advise this office as to the status of prosecution relative to this case.</p> <p>In reply to the above noted letter, the U. S. District Attorney advised the San Francisco Field Division by letter dated April 17, 1941, that on February 7, 1939, he had communicated by letter relative to this matter with the Attorney General of the United States requesting the latter's instructions with regard to this matter and that he had received a letter dated February 13, 1939, from JAMES V. BENNETT, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, in which Mr. BENNETT indicated that there would be no prosecution.</p>			
<small>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</small> <i>N. J. Dugger</i>		<small>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</small> <small>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES SF</small> 76-4175 + 39	
<small>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</small> 5 - Bureau 2 - USA San Francisco 2 - San Francisco		<small>COPIES DESTROYED</small> 216 JUN 26 1961 Ser 16 1966 <small>CC-RECORDED BY T. S.</small> <small>JUN 6 1941</small>	
JUN 18 1941			

in this matter. The United States District Attorney stated that for this reason his office was treating this matter as closed.

In view of the above, this case is being closed by this office.

-CLOSED-

76-347

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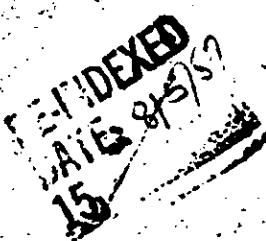
RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias Dog, (Deceased); DALE STAMPHILL; RUFUS MC GAIN; HENRY YOUNG; WILLIAM MARTIN
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

DELINQUENCY:

An inspection of the bulky exhibits in this office disclosed an album containing photographs of Alcatraz Penitentiary and grounds surrounding in connection with this case. This case was closed on May 28, 1941 and there appears to be no further use for this picture album in instant case.

EXPLANATION:

This album will be retained in this office and appropriately indexed in the general indices under the caption "ALCATRAZ PENITENTIARY, PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRISON AND GROUNDS". The album will be turned over to the Chief Clerk for appropriate filing in order to have it available for ready reference.



INSPECTION REPORT
San Francisco Field Division
August 26, 1944
SAC N. J. L. PIEPER

76-4175-
1 RECORDED
SEP 21 1944

209

4-341

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. ROSEN *RW*

FROM : L. B. NICHOLS

SUBJECT: ARTHUR E. BARKER, ALIAS "DOC".
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS ALCATRAZ PENITENTIARY

DATE: 4/22/54

V/W

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Bulky Exhibit File Number: 76-4175-29

We are presently in the process of reviewing all bulky exhibits presently on hand, in order that we may weed out those which will serve no useful purpose by being retained. Inasmuch as a great many of these bulky exhibits pertain to inactive cases and are occupying badly needed space, it is requested that you have the appropriate substantive supervisor review the above-listed bulky exhibit and render a decision as to the retention or disposition of the material contained therein. A notation as to the decision rendered should be placed on this memorandum, and it should be returned to the Filing Unit of the Records Section, room 1113, Identification Building. This memorandum will be filed in the case file.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above-listed bulky exhibit be reviewed and a decision rendered as to the retention or disposition of the material contained therein.

JWM:dbb

Destroy

4/29/54

514-632

RECORDED-49

76-4175-40

10. 1. 1954

53 MAY 13 1954
11

210

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 9/5/56

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (7-0)

SUBJECT: DALE STAMPHILL
INFORMATION CONCERNING9-19 1-16-6
23

The Bureau is advised that DALE STAMPHILL, United States Penitentiary #L-51862, was released from the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on 4/11/56. He was placed on parole and the terms of his release reflect [REDACTED]

b7c

b7c

It is to be noted that STAMPHILL reportedly became quite active in religious affairs at the penitentiary and may have some effect on his conduct in the future.

STAMPHILL had previously been sentenced to a life sentence for the crime of kidnaping from the Western District of Oklahoma.

A photograph of STAMPHILL has been obtained and is being maintained in the Kansas City office for future reference.

2-Bureau
1-Oklahoma City
1-Kansas City
PW:B
(4)

K-13989

SAB
[Signature]J
[Signature]

76-475-41

RECORDED-59

28 SEP 7 1956

INDEXED-59

100
61 SEP 21 1956

911-2

211

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deleted under exemption(s) B7C with no segregable material available for release to you.

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
Arthur Barker 76-4175

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

(Escaped Federal Prisoner)

SUBJECT Arthur Barker (Death Of)

FILE NUMBER 76-4175

SECTION NUMBER, Sub A

SERIALS -

TOTAL PAGES 47

PAGES RELEASED 47

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED NONE

Alcatraz Break Probe

Use of Saws by Felons Proved by Prison Chief

Any doubt that saws were used to cut the bars of the five Alcatraz convicts who attempted a break for freedom last Friday was set at rest last night following a second day of on-the-scene investigation led by Director of Federal Prisons James V. Bennett.

Bennett had previously entertained the possibility that other instruments had been employed—such as hanjo string and valve grinding compound, piano wire or watch springs, or any thin strips of metal and abrasives.

Bennett, who had been scheduled to return last night to Washington, D. C., decided to remain at least another day. Much of his time yesterday was spent in questioning prisoners in an effort to learn how wide-spread was advance information regarding the escape plot.

He was endeavoring also to learn how the escape saws were obtained and to find others believed hidden in the prison. The saws used by the plotters were believed to have been cast into the bay when the fleeing men reached the island shore.

Reiterating his personal inquiry had disclosed no reason for anything approaching a "shakeup," Bennett said yesterday that if further investigation by himself and Warden James A. Johnston indicated a need for change in methods of handling prisoners or supervision, these changes would be made.

The prison, he mentioned, houses the country's most cunning and nerviest escape artists—who have plenty of time to think up ways of getting out.

"And when they go through our first line of defenses, we have to rebuild them," he said. "That is what we are doing."

Inquest into the death of Arthur (Doc) Barker, notorious Oklahoma

criminal, slain in the attempted break, has been set for Tuesday by Coroner T. B. W. Leland. Barker's body was buried yesterday in a Government-owned cemetery plot south of San Francisco. The prison chaplain, a prison clerk and four pallbearers from an undertaking parlor were the only persons present at the brief services.

Subpoenas for the inquest will include one for the slain convict's father, George Barker of Joplin, Mo. Subpoenas might be issued, it was said, for one or more of the four survivors of the break—Dale Stamps-hill, who was shot in both legs; Henry Young, Rufus McCain and William Martin.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nation	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Crowley	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Gleavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. McIntire	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mrs. Gandy	.....

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 18 1939

76-4175-A

24

Oklahoma City, Okla.
January 13, 1939

STATE FELONS SHOT TRYING ALCATRAZ DASH

Doc Barker, Stamphill
Wounded, Third Caught
With Two Companions

Oklahomans in Attempted Prison Break Have Long Records

By United Press

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13. Five convicts, including Arthur (Doc) Barker, member of the once notorious Karpis-Barker gang, and Dale Stamphill, Oklahoma convict, made a desperate attempt to escape from Alcatraz rock today but were captured after guards opened fire, wounding two of them.

Barker and Stamphill were wounded seriously.

Barker, serving life for kidnaping, was shot in the left leg and head.

Stamphill, serving life for kidnaping, under sentence from Oklahoma City, was shot in both legs.

Warden James A. Johnston identified the other three convicts in the break as:

Rufus McCain, 99 years for national bank robbery and kidnaping. Henri Young, 20 years for robbing a national bank.

William Martin, Negro, 35 years for armed robbery of a postoffice.

Sawed Way Out

Martin suffered scratches and abrasions caused by his attempt to slide down a rocky bank to the water.

The convicts sawed their way out of their cells and were almost in the swirling tides of San Francisco Bay when guards caught up with them. Prison authorities did not know how the convicts had obtained the saws.

Three Surrender

McCain, Young and Martin surrendered after Barker and Stamphill fell.

The five were captured before they had a chance to get off "The Rock"—the Federal Government's famous penitentiary in San Francisco Bay.

Indicating a carefully planned break, the attempt was made in a dripping fog—the thickest fog to blanket the San Francisco area in months.

A gigantic search for the fugitives was organized and under way when Warden Johnston announced he men had been captured.

"They got out of a cell building

Doc Barker, the most notorious of the Oklahomans involved in the break at Alcatraz, was out of McAlester penitentiary on parole when he became involved in the Bremer kidnaping.

He had been paroled Sept. 10, 1932, after serving 10 years of a murder sentence.

His recorded crime career began in 1918 when he was arrested for larceny of Government property. He escaped jail at Muskogee and was captured in Joplin. In 1921 he was arrested on charges of attempting to rob a bank.

The underworld knew Barker as a companion of Alvin (Old Creepy) Karpis, bank robber and murderer—at one time America's public enemy No. 1. He is a member of the notorious Barker family of Oklahoma.

Brother, Mother Slain

Members of the family included Kate (Ma) Barker, Freddie Barker and Arthur, known as "Doc." "Ma" and Freddie were slain in Ocala, Fla., after a six-hour gunfight with federal agents.

In 1933 the Karpis-Barker gang became the nation's worst criminal outfit, made nearly \$500,000 by robbing banks, kidnaping such victims as St. Paul's brewer, William Hamm, and Edward George Bremer, a banker. Then G-men and police began weeding out the gang. "Ma" and Fred and another hoodlum were slain. Six other mobsters were put behind bars and seven more were indicted for the Hamm snatching.

Stamphill began his criminal career at Granite reformatory in 1928, sentenced to five years for car theft. In 1931 he was sent to McAlester on a four-year burglary charge. He went back to Granite in 1933 under a 20-year sentence for robbery with firearms.

He escaped and was later recaptured and returned to McAlester prison.

McCain Bank Robber

He was arrested in 1937 on bank

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. East	.....
Mr. Farwell	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. McEntire	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Orman Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Candy	.....

about 4 a. m." Warden Johnston said. "A heavy fog enveloped the island.

Coast Guard Out

"The fugitives attempted to get to the water but were defeated in the attempt by guards.

"The convicts were so desperate in their efforts to get to the water, however, that two of them, Barker and Stamphill were shot before they halted.

"The others then surrendered."

Johnston said a routine checkup at 4 a. m. led to discovery that the men were missing from their cells

Crawling Toward Water

"I don't know yet how they got out," the warden added. "The guards found them somewhat scattered out and crawling down to the beach over the rocks on the west end of the island.

"The fugitives were crawling and running toward the water. They evidently were planning to swim for it.

"The guards opened fire after first warning the men to stop.

"They didn't stop until Barker and Stamphill were shot.

"Then they surrendered."

Inspector George Ingels of the San Francisco Police Department

(Please turn to Page 8, Column 3)

robbery and kidnaping charges and sentenced to Alcatraz, according to records of the state Crime Bureau.

Oklahoma's third criminal in the break was Rufus McCain who began his criminal career in McCurtain County. He later was sentenced to 12 years for robbery and assault in Arkansas and was committed to the penitentiary at Little Rock. He escaped and was recaptured.

In 1935 he was arrested by the Oklahoma City Police Department and sent to prison on charges of robbing a national bank at Muskogee.

Two Oklahoma convicts were the only ones ever to crack the iron ring about Alcatraz—but whether they paid with their lives for their bid for freedom still is a secret locked in the waters of San Francisco Bay.

No Trace Found

Ted Cole and Ralph Roe broke a lock on a high fence, leaped to a rock ledge and plunged into the treacherous waters of the bay under cover of a dense fog Dec. 16, 1937.

From that day to this no direct trace of them has been found. Prison officials incline to belief they drowned. Both were good swimmers but the tides of the bay are extremely dangerous and the water was icy cold.

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215

TWO CONVICTS SHOT IN ALCATRAZ BREAK

(Continued From Page One)

said that the five were captured on the island before they had a chance to even reach the swirling waters of the bay.

Dozens of police and Coast Guard boats had been mobilized for the search. Soldiers guarded the shoreline of San Francisco and Marin counties, the mainland nearest Alcatraz. The Navy stood by, ready to dispatch speed boats.

Alcatraz Island is inside the Golden Gate, one and one-fourth miles from the nearest mainland.

Only once have prisoners escaped from this island, formerly a military prison, and that feat has not been substantiated. Ralph Roe and Theodore Cole, Oklahoma desperadoes, went over the wall during a fog the night of Dec. 16, 1937. They never have been heard from. Presumably they drowned in the treacherous tides.

Difficult Prisoners

Barker was committed originally to Leavenworth penitentiary but was transferred to Alcatraz. The Justice Department said: "He has been a difficult prisoner to manage." He participated in a "strike" at Alcatraz in September, 1937.

McCain, Young and Martin also were "difficult to manage," according to Justice Department records.

McCain was convicted of kidnaping bank employees in an attempted robbery of the Idabel National Bank of Idabel, Okla. He was sentenced in Durant, Okla., June 11, 1935, and served time at Leavenworth before being transferred to Alcatraz.

Another Striker

Young was convicted of robbing the First National Bank of Lind, Wash. A former inmate of McNeil Island penitentiary, Young was described by the Justice Department as "a disciplinary problem." He took part in the Alcatraz "strike" of September, 1937.

Stamphill was sentenced in 1937 for kidnaping Dr. Fred Louis Meyers, and taking him from Leedy, Okla., to Canadian, Tex.

Martin was sentenced to 25 years for armed robbery of a Chicago postoffice. He served time at Leavenworth. He also was involved in the Alcatraz "strike."

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Sapp

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowley
Mr. Egan
Mr. Forworth
Mr. Gavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Drastic Improvement Of Guard System At Alcatraz Urged

Coroner's Jury Blames 'Failure' of Set-Up for 13 Break Attempts

By the Associated Press.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 25.— "Drastic improvement" in the system of guarding "impregnable" Alcatraz Island Prison, from which 11 of America's most dangerous criminals tried to escape in the last 13 months was recommended today by a coroner's jury.

The jurors blamed "failure of the system" for the latest attempted break in which Arthur "Doc" Barker, Midwest murderer and kidnaper, was killed. The jury found he was shot to death "by guards unknown."

The jury suggested that:

"The citizens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for the imprisonment of the type of desperadoes at present housed in Alcatraz."

Coroner T. B. W. Leland was caustic in questioning Associate Warden Edward J. Miller about the safeguards of the island penitentiary.

"There appears to be only the matter of water between the prisoners and liberty," he commented.

He questioned the use of saws in island workshops which could be used to saw bars, wondered whether Government economy prevented a more elaborate guard system, demanded to know how the convicts could saw their way out of five separate cells and wrench a bar loose from the end of a corridor watched by three guards.

"It might seem foolish to the jury," the coroner said, "to carry on prison occupations which would furnish implements of escape."

76-4175 A WASH. STAR

JAN 26 1935

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Sur

New Angle Found In Alcatraz Break

5 FELONS MAY NOT HAVE USED SAWS

James V. Bennett, boss-in-chief of the entire Federal prison system, hadn't been on Alcatraz ten hours, yesterday, before he broke an entirely new angle in last Friday's sensational prison break investigation!

Ever since the break of Arthur "Doc" Barker and four other convicts, Alcatraz officials have been proceeding on the theory that the men sawed their way out of their cells, out of a steel-barred window to escape to the beach, where gunplay ended their escapade.

But last night, Bennett said flatly:

"There's a possibility the men didn't use saws at all!"

SANDED STRING.

Bennett's analysis goes far to explain why the four-day search for the hacksaws which Barker and his pals are believed to have used has been in vain.

"There are many ways in which the bars might have been broken, besides the use of saws," said Bennett last night. "Wire or even sanded string, properly manipulated, could in time cut through bars. Or a certain type of brace could be used to break the bars. There are many ways."

Bennett arrived on the island yesterday morning, after a rush trip from his office in Washington. He went at once into secret conferences with Warden James A. Jolifiston and Assistant Warden Edward J. Miller, as well as guard officers and other prison attaches. He looked over the entire ground.

RENEWS GRILLING.

Then he personally undertook renewed grilling of the four survivors of the break—Dale Stamp hill, who lies in the prison hospital with bullet wounds in both legs; Rufus McCain, Henri Young, and Negro William Martin.

"I can't say, at this time, if I've been able to develop anything new from the men," said Bennett. "You know, I can't come out here like Sherlock Holmes and solve this case in one day!"

"However, I believe we have opened up certain new lines, which may be developed and lead to the solution of how the men engineered their attempt to get away. I have no particular comment to make at this time on anything that's going on here. I haven't gone far enough at yet."

G-MEN HELP.

"As a matter of fact, I doubt if I can complete the investigation while I am here, but what we unearth today and tomorrow will give leads on which we will continue our investigation."

Agents of the FBI—G-men—have been co-operating with Alcatraz officials and were in on yesterday's conferences with Bennett, he added.

Bennett scouted talk that his visit here, on top of the Friday break, portended a shakeup in the personnel of the Alcatraz penitentiary.

"If by the term shakeup, you mean that any men will lose their jobs, or that we're out head-hunting, then the answer is: No shakeup," said Bennett. "However, if we find that the system or routine can be changed so as to prevent a recurrence of this sort of thing, or to help make our defenses as impregnable as possible, then we shall of course make such changes at once, for the good of the service."

NO AIDES FOUND.

"So far," Bennett added, "we have found no evidence or indication that any individual—guard or other officers—was to blame for last week's escape attempt."

While Bennett was busy on the island, the body of Barker lay in the morgue here, a bullet hole through the head. On Thursday of this week, it was indicated, the coroner's inquest will probably be held into his death. Prison officials will testify. Bennett himself, however, will not be there. He expects to finish his work on "The Rock" tonight, and will return at once to Washington.

SAN FRANCISCO MAILED

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 17 1939

76 - 41175 A

219

2 SHOT DOWN AS ALCATRAZ BREAKS FAILS

Karpis' Pal Barker Hit in Head as 5 Scale Walls

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (UP).—Five convicts, including Arthur (Doc) Barker, member of the once notorious Karpis-Barker gang, made a desperate attempt to escape from Alcatraz Federal Prison before dawn today, but were captured after guards opened fire, wounding two of them.

Barker, serving life for kidnaping, was shot through the head and leg and critically wounded. Dale Stamp-hill, also under life sentence for kid-napng, was struck in both legs.

Other 3 Identified
Warden James A. Johnston identified the other three as:

Rufus McCain, ninety-nine years for national bank robbery and kidnaping; Henri Young, twenty years for robbing a national bank; William Martin, Negro, thirty-five years for armed robbery of a post office.

McCain, Young and Martin surrendered after Barker and Stambill fell. Martin suffered scratches and abrasions caused by his attempt to slide down a rocky bank to the water.

The five were captured before they had a chance to get off "the rock"—the Federal Government's famous penitentiary in San Francisco Bay.

Make Break in Fog

Indicating a carefully planned break, the attempt was made in a dripping fog—the thickest fog to blanket the San Francisco area in months.

A gigantic search for the fugitives was organized and under way when Warden Johnston announced the men had been captured.

"They got out of a cell building about 4 A. M." Johnston said. "A heavy fog enveloped the island.

"The fugitives attempted to get to the water but were defeated in the attempt by guards.

"The convicts were so desperate in their efforts to get to the water, however, that two of them, Barker and Stumphill, were shot before they halted. The others then surrendered."

~~At Johnston's request~~ Coast Guard cutters and police boats surrounded the island and circled in the bay until the fugitives were caught.

Planned to Swim for It
"I don't know yet how they got out," the warden added. "The guards found them somewhat scattered out and crawling and running toward the water. They evidently

"That was a tough way to start out Friday the 13th," Inspector George Ingels of the San Francisco Police Department, one of those who directed the search from shore, said.

(In a statement issued in Washington, James V. Bennett, Prison Bureau director, said:

"In some manner, we do not yet understand, the prisoners managed to obtain a saw and with it got out of their cells and through the exterior window of the cell block. In the dense fog enveloping the island they managed to elude officers guarding the outside, and reached the shore before they were apprehended.

"There was no evidence that they had any help from the outside, and no boats were found in the vicinity of the island.")

No. One's' Pal

Barker was a companion in crime of Alvin (Old Creepy) Karpis, kidnaper, bank robber and murderer—at one time America's public enemy No. 1.

He is a member of the notorious Barker family of Oklahoma, which included "Ma" Kate Barker, Freddie Barker and Arthur. "Ma" Barker and Freddie were slain in Oklawaha, Fla., after six-hour gunfight with Federal agents.

Arthur was sent to Alcatraz for life for the abduction of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, in 1934. Bremer was released after twenty-one days on payment of \$200,000 ransom.

Stamphill was sentenced in 1937 for kidnaping Dr. Fred Louis Meyers, and taking him from Leevy, Okla., to Texas.

Alcatraz Island is located inside the Golden Gate, one and one-fourth miles from the nearest mainland.

Only once have prisoners escaped and that feat has not been substantiated. Ralph Roe and Theodore Cole, Oklahoma desperadoes, went over the wall during a fog the night of December 16, 1937. They never have been heard from. Presumably they drowned in the treacherous tides.

Clipping from
NEW YORK POST

DATE: JAN 13 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

ROCK HUNTS ESCAPE SAWS

How Did 5 Hack Cells Unheard? Question At Alcatraz

In the most intensive "shakedown" in the history of Alcatraz penitentiary, guards and officials at the island prison sought today the solution to the escape attempt of five inmates which ended in the death of one and the critical wounding of another.

With Arthur ("Doc") Barker, 40-year-old midwest kidnapper dead from a bullet wound in the head, and Dale Stamphill, 27, also a kidnaper, in the prison hospital, Warden James A. Johnston spurred a search of the prison in an attempt to answer these questions:

First, where are the saws used by the escaping convicts to hack their way through cell bars of five individual cells and a barred window of the main prison block?

Ed
HOW LONG FOR SAWIN?
Secondly, how long did it take the prisoners to saw through the bars?

Thirdly, why were the sounds of sawing not heard by prison guards?

As the prison remained under the most strict disciplinary regulations in its history, each cell, down to the most remote corners, was made the object of a minute scrutiny.

THREE IN SOLITARY

In solitary confinement, meanwhile, were three other members of the biggest escape plot on the "Rock."

The three—Rufus McCain, 36, serving ninety-five years for bank robbery and kidnaping; Henri Young, 28, twenty years for bank robbery, and William Martin, 25, Negro, serving twenty-five years for postoffice robbery—surrendered at the water's edge of the island early yesterday as bullets, scattering through a wool-thick fog, wrote "finis" to the break attempt and the life of Barker.

Trapped on the island beach, Barker and Stamphill chose to take a "thousand to one chance" on escaping the bullets of sharp shooting guards and rushed for the water.

Barker fell, shot through the

Continued on Page A, Col. 7

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
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SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN

FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 14 1939

76-4175-A

221

'ROCK' ESCAPE SAWS HUNTED

Continued From Page One

head, while Stampill was shot through both legs.

Dr. Sherman Leland, who examined the body of Barker in the San Francisco morgue today, said the kidnaper and one time member of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang, had been shot through the right eye, the bullet leaving the body below his right ear.

First word of the break reached San Francisco police headquarters at 4:13 a. m., and the police boat D. A. White sped to the island. The Coast Guard cutter Daphne and two picket boats joined it.

Presidio soldiers were ordered to patrol the beach and fifteen police radio cars were dispatched to cruise back and forth along the water's edge.

CAUGHT BUILDING RAFT

But meanwhile, piercing lights zig-zagged through the fog to reveal the five men on the beach. Nearly nude, the five men were striving desperately to fashion a raft or rafts from driftwood, using their clothes as binding.

Within less than two hours after the escape was discovered all were captured.

"They were ordered to surrender," the warden declared, "and the order was repeated as the two men started to run. When they refused to halt, the guards opened fire."

The convicts, it was believed, deliberately waited for a heavy fog to shield their movements, following the technique of Ted Cole and Ralph Roe, who vanished from the island in December, 1937. No trace of them has ever been found.

SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN

FORWARDED BY
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JAN 14 1939

222

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 Mr. Nichols
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 Mr. Gandy
Mr. Nichols
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Outside Aid Theory In Alcatraz Break Stirs Harbor Hunt

Coast Guard
Investigates
Strange
Craft

SEARCH

The possibility that outside confederates may have waited to aid Arthur "Doc" Barker and his four fellow convicts in their futile dash for freedom from Alcatraz Island early Friday morning loomed stronger yesterday.

Throughout the night and during the early hours of the morning Coast Guard cutters were making an intensive patrol of all yacht harbors in the bay district.

All small craft were carefully observed and all strange vessels received a thorough investigation.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

Officials in charge of the Government's investigation, commenting on the possibility that the quick apprehension of the men may have thwarted a rendezvous with outside confederates, said:

"We are not overlooking anything. All things are being taken into consideration."

An autopsy by Dr. Sherman Land in San Francisco yesterday disclosed that Barker was shot in the right eye and left leg when gunfire brought a halt to the attempted break.

FELON GIVEN CHANCE.

Dale Stamphill, 27 year old Oklahoma kidnap, whose leg and thigh were shattered by bullets in the fusillade, was reported slightly improved in the prison hospital and given a chance to recover.

Rufus McCain, 36, serving 99 years for bank robbery and kidnapping, and Henri Young, 28, doing a 20-year stretch for bank robbery, two more participants in the break, were in solitary confinement, Warden James A. Johnston admitted. The fifth convict, Negro William Martin, 25, serving 25 years for post office robbery, was still in the prison hospital suffering from exposure and cuts and bruises.

Deep concern over how the five convicts obtained saws and then managed to cut their way through the Rock's famous "file proof bars" was evident in the voice of Warden Johnston when he said that a 24 hour search of the prison had failed to disclose the saws.

TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

Everything movable in the prison was literally turned upside down on Friday following the break and all prisoners were submitted to repeated scrutiny by the island's "electric eye" without success, officials disclosed.

Normal prison routine was resumed yesterday, but G-men were still on the Island aiding Johnston in his investigation.

James V. Bennett, director of Federal prisons, was en route

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

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JAN 15 1939

76-4175-A

OUTSIDE AID SEEN IN BREAK ON ALCATRAZ

Coast Guard Cutters Give
Strange Vessels Thorough In-
vestigation; Harbors Searched

(Continued from Page One)

from Washington to take charge
of the investigation, and is due
to arrive tomorrow.

Whether action will be taken
against the survivors of the
break for their participation will
be determined when Bennett ar-
rives, Johnston said.

Bruises on the knees of Barker
and the other convicts told their
own story of how they had
crawled and scrambled along the
steep sides of Alcatraz to the
tiny beach where they were final-
ly captured.

Warden Johnston said it was
not known exactly who killed
Barker, notorious member of the
Barker-Alvin Karpis kidnaping
and murder combine.

"They were in the fog. We
were in the fog," Johnston ex-
plained tersely. "We were scur-
rying all around, and they were
scurrying trying to escape us.

"When we saw them, we or-
dered them to put up their
hands. McCain and Young
did, but Barker and Staphill
started to run. One minute
we could see them, and then
we couldn't.

"So Barker was shot in the
eye. He may have been
caught in cross-fire, or struck
by a shot fired from the boats
that were around the Island."

Barker, 40 years old, was serv-
ing a life term for the \$200,000
kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer,
wealthy St. Paul banker. Date
for an inquest in his death will
be set by Coroner T. B. W. Le-
land next week.

Alcatraz officials yesterday
asked Coroner Leland to release
Barker's body to the Lasswell
Undertaking Company, which has
a contract for the burial of Gov-
ernment prisoners, but Leland re-
fuses to do so. The coroner de-
clared he would take no action
on the request until he received
an answer from a wire he sent
to Barker's father, in Joplin, Mis-
souri.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

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JAN 15 1935

224

2 Shot as 5 Fail in Break At Alcatraz

'Doc' Barker Gravely Wounded; Fog Masks Flight

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (By International News Service). — Two convicts, including Arthur "Doc" Barker, one of America's most notorious criminals and former lieutenant in the dreaded Alvin Karpis gang, were shot and three confederates captured today when they attempted to escape from Alcatraz Federal Prison in San Francisco Bay.

Barker was serving life for kidnaping.

Other incorrigible "Rock" prisoners participating in the break were:

DALE STAMPHILL, serving life for kidnaping.

RUFUS McCAIN, serving 99 years for bank robbery and kidnaping.

HENRI YOUNG, serving 20 years for bank robbery.

WILLIAM MARTIN, Negro, serving 25 years for a post office robbery.

Barker was reported in serious condition. He was shot in the right side of the head and left leg. Stamphill was shot in both legs.

GOT OUT OF BUILDING.

Warden James Johnston announced:

"Five prisoners were defeated in their attempt to escape Alcatraz Island."

He named the prisoners.

"They got out of cell building about 4 a. m., and in the fog that enveloped the island at-



Arthur Barker, convicted kidnaping, was one of the five convicts who tried to escape from Alcatraz prison. Barker was shot

attempted to get to the water, but were defeated in the attempt by guards.

"But they were so desperate in their efforts to get into the water that two of them, Barker and Stamphill, were shot before they halted.

"At request of Warden Johnston the Coast Guard and San Francisco police boat rushed to the island and with the prison launch stood by and circled in the bay around the island until the men were placed back in prison."

An official report to the Bureau of Prisons in Washington said the five desperadoes sawed their way out of a cell block, and made their way out of a rear window at 4 a. m.

A heavy fog enveloped the prison during the early morning hours and the fleeing men managed to make their way some distance from the cell block before being discovered.

Guards opened fire on the prisoners who were unarmed.

LIKE MASS OF WOOL.

"We don't know how they got out," Warden Johnston told newsmen later. "When we found them missing we turned on the flood lights. The bay looked like a mass of wool.

"The convicts were running toward the northeast shore. We could see them faintly in the fog.

"When the shots were fired Barker and Stamphill dropped like poled oxen. The other three surrendered immediately without resistance.

"There's no doubt they intended to swim for it. They were that desperate. We mad

a search of the shoreline, as found no raft or boat.

The Warden said the fleeing men had been given ample advance warning to halt before the shots were fired. They were spread eanwise, running, crawling and rolling down the slope of the rocks off the island.

Clipping from
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN

DATE: JAN 13 1934

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

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225

SLAIN AT ALCATRAZ



Associated Press Photo

DOC BARKER

The pal of the notorious Alvin Karpis was shot down by Alcatraz guards when he and four others sawed their way out of their cells and dashed for the waters of San Francisco Bay.

ALCATRAZ BREAK INQUIRY BEGUN

**U. S. Prison Chief Flies
West—Doc Barker Slain
as Five Try to Flee**

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14 (UP)

—The Government conducted a "shake-down" at Alcatraz, its prison for tough desperadoes, today to learn how five of them managed to saw out of their cells. The ringleader, Arthur (Doc) Barker, was fatally wounded in the recapture.

Federal Prison Director James V. Bennett flew here from Washington to direct the investigation.

"Stool Pigeon" Failed

The strictest discipline prevailed in the island prison as guards searched for other saws that might have got past the "electric stool pigeon." The "stool pigeon" is an electric eye that detects the presence of metal objects which pass its beam.

How the desperadoes obtained a saw for their break was a mystery. What became of it was reported to be unknown to prison officials.

Recaptured with Barker, as all five slid down the steep slopes in a frantic effort to plunge into the bay and swim a mile to the mainland were Dale Stamphill, twenty-seven; Henry Young, twenty-eight; Rufus McCain, thirty-six, and William Martin, twenty-five.

Barker Dies of Wound

Barker died last night in the prison hospital. He had been shot through the head and leg. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for the kidnaping of William Bremer, of St. Paul, and was a co-leader of the Barker-Karpis gang which terrorized the Middlewest three years ago.

He was the third son of Kate (Ma) Barker to die violently in a clash with the law. A fourth is serving life in Leavenworth Federal Prison. Ma Barker was slain with another son in a battle with Federal agents in Florida.

Stamphill, a lifer from Oklahoma, was reported near death in the prison hospital. He was shot through both legs and an artery was severed.

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Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Tracy

[Handwritten signatures over the list]

Clipping from
NEW YORK POST

DATE: JAN 14 1935

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226

Kidnaper Killed In Alcatraz Break

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (INS).—Death followed the latest attempt of Alcatraz convicts to escape from the grim rock in San Francisco Bay. Fatally wounded by the rifle bullets of guards as he led four companions in a dash for freedom, Arthur "Doc" Barker, 40, former Karpis gangster and kidnaper, died in prison hospital tonight.

Barker was the third convict to be shot to death by guards in escape attempts since the "Rock" became a Federal prison four years ago.

The guards' bullets wiped out the last dangerous member of one of the nation's most notorious criminal families, when Barker joined in death his mother and brother, "Ma" and Fred Barker, shot down by G-men four years ago in Florida.

Barker was sent to Alcatraz for life for the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, in 1935.

Tonight Warden James A. Johnston, his aides, and G-men, were questioning the survivors of the desperate break and attempting to locate the instruments, with which they sawed their way to freedom.

In the prison hospital, one of Barker's fellow plotters, Dale Stamphill, 27, Southwestern kid-

naper, lay seriously wounded to night.

Barker was shot in the head and leg and Stamphill in both legs, as they ran toward the waters of the Golden Gate, under cover of fog, and ignored the shouted commands of guards to halt.

The other three inmates surrendered as guards closed in with high-powered rifles and machine-guns on the rugged cliff looking toward the Golden Gate.

They were Rufus McCain, serving 99 years for national bank robbery and kidnaping; Henri



Rufus McCain Henri Young
Caught after attempted break from Alcatraz.

Young, 20 years for national bank robbery, and William Martin, 25, years for robbing a post office.

The convicts made their dash shortly before 4 o'clock this morning.

The alarm was sounded, bringing every guard and official from their homes on the island. The weather was very mucky. It was impossible to see more than a few feet in any direction.

Guards finally located the fleeing men on the cliff above the waters facing the Golden Gate. Barker and Stamphill refused to surrender. The guards fired to bring them to a halt. Martin was slightly injured when he fell.



Arthur Barker D. Stamphill
Guards' fusillade kills one, wounds other.

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Mr. Crowley
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Mr. Farbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McEntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn, Director
Mr. Tracy
Mrs. Gandy

R. Cramer

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227

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Barker Break Called 'Start' for Alcatraz

(With the death of "Doc" Barker, Alcatraz has lost a prolific trouble-maker, but there are plenty of others to take his place, says P. F. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz" and a veteran of four years on The Rock. In today's article, last of two stories dealing with the most recent attempt to break from the American Devil's Island, Reed traces the history of other disorders at Alcatraz, and tells why he thinks the trouble has just begun there.)

BY P. F. REED.

Special to The Herald and Examiner.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 15.—They're a long ways from being through with their trouble over on The Rock. I said it when I was writing "Murder on Alcatraz." I say it again now. This is only a nice start.

They may think they have seen something pretty tough in the way of capers. They have not. I happen to know that one of the toughest mobs they've ever had on the rock is liable to turn loose any day, and when that mob does turn loose, somebody is going to get hurt. This caper has been going along underground while the other ones have popped up and exploded. The only thing I can say about it is that it's going to be rough, because this crowd has always played rough.

BARKER HALF SMART.

That is more than I can say for the gees who were mixed up in Friday's go. Barker was the only one that had any guts, and he wasn't so terribly tough. He thought he was tough, and he thought he had a reputation to live up to, and he was in on all the strikes, but he lost practically every fight he ever got into. But he had some guts and he was half smart and he was very unhappy about being double-crossed by Roe and Cole when they left without telling him.

So he figured out his own caper, though why he picked the way he did is puzzling. Maybe it was because the main cell block was the only place where he could get all his men together at one time.

Anyway it isn't hard to understand why he organized his party the way he did. For one thing,

when the big shots get ready to go, they always seem to want to take a lot of people along with them—seems to give them Dutch courage or something.

But there's another reason.

GREEN KIDS TOUGHER.

Barker undoubtedly took green kids because green kids are tougher than good men when you get them ribbed up to do anything. And when you have four or five of them, they make good slug-stoppers, though they didn't work out that way for Barker. He stopped the slugs.

I said the trouble is just started on Alcatraz. I'm not going out on any limb. I mentioned one caper, a big one, that is getting ready to go. Well, there is never any time, and never has been any time, when there hasn't been some caper cooking on the fire. Some of them never get ripe. That's why there are as many live men on the island as there are.

For instance, there was one big go being hatched up to spring eight men. They had been working on this for months. They say politics doesn't work on Alcatraz, but it worked to this extent—the men all got themselves jobs in one department at the same time. They figured they had to put four men on the spot. Two of them were convicts in the same department that they couldn't trust.

ESCAPE PLAN TOLD.

One was a free man, also working there. The other was a guard. They were going to put the convicts and the free man out of the way first. Then the guard. There was a catwalk along the outside of this department and a window overlooking the catwalk. They were going to saw out two of the bars in the window, take a piece of wire and lean out and kill the guard as he walked by.

Before they could do it, somebody squawked and the convicts

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

70-47175-1

1-16-38

228

Kidnaper Slain, 4 Captured in Alcatraz Break

(Special to The News)

San Francisco, Jan. 13.—A Friday the 13th escape attempt brought death today to Arthur (Doc) Barker, notorious kidnaper; serious wounds to a second convict, and recapture for three others. Under cover of the heaviest fog of the Winter, they sawed their way out of their cells at Alcatraz Island and reached the water's edge before they were discovered.

Barker, 38-year-old member of the Alvin (Creepy) Karpis gang, serving a life term for the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping, was shot through the head and leg and died tonight.

Also wounded was Dale Stumphill, 27, of Leedy, Okla., serving a life term for kidnaping Dr. Fred Myers. Stumphill was shot through both legs. His condition was critical.

So Near, Yet So Far.

The men had stripped off their clothes and one had obtained pieces of driftwood which he was attempting to lash together to form a raft when the searching beams of the Rock's searchlights picked them out.

Others in the attempt besides Barker and Stumphill were:

William Martin, 25, colored, doing twenty-five years for post office robbery. He was injured as he scrambled down the cliffs about the island.

Rufus (Rufe) McCain, 36, serving 99 years for bank robbery and kidnaping.

Henri Young, 27, under a twenty-year term for a Lind, Wash., bank robbery.

Two Quickly Surrender.

"Our guards saw a group of men by the incinerator near the water on the Golden Gate side of the island," Warden James A. Johnston said.

"Searchlights picked out two of the men, McCain and Young. They stopped and raised their arms above their heads at command of the guards.

"Two others, Barker and Stumphill, started to run. The guards fired, hitting them.

"Stumphill was struck in both legs and was not believed badly hurt, but at the prison hospital surgeons seemed unable to stanch the flow of blood and it is believed that one of the large arteries was severed. His condition is critical. "After four had been apprehended, Martin was discovered between 100 and 150 yards further south. All of the men had divested themselves of their shoes and outer clothing and Martin was practically nude.

"The men were all housed in the same aisle in the main cell block.

Two Sets of Bars Cut.

"Not only were the bars of the cell doors cut, but some of them had been pried apart.

"After escaping from the cell, the men fled down a corridor to a window where the bars were sawed through and removed also.

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The late Arthur (Doc) Barker
Mortally wounded in break.

Then they dropped ten feet to the ground and slipped by a patrol and tower guard.

"No saws or other implements have been found. Where they came from we do not know."

Only two men may have escaped from the island in recent years. They are Ted Cole and Ralph Roe who vanished Dec. 16, 1937. No trace of them has ever been found, and many believe they drowned in the swift current while attempting to swim to the mainland.

Clipping from
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

DATE: JAN 14 '38

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229

Five Saw Way Out of Alcatraz; Barker Killed

Bremer Kidnaper Dies in Break With Four; One Is Shot, Others Give Up

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13 (AP).—Arthur (Doc) Barker, forty years old, gangland terrorist and kidnaper, participated with four other convicts in an attempt to break away from Alcatraz prison, regarded as escape proof, early today and lost his life.

Shot in the head and through the legs by guards as he made ready for a desperate swim into fog-shrouded San Francisco Bay, Barker died at 5:45 p. m. tonight in the prison hospital.

Barker, who was shot as he allegedly ignored a guard's order to halt, had joined fellow prisoners in sawing their way out of a steel cell block in the island Federal penitentiary in which he was serving a life term for the Edward G. Bremer kidnaping.

In one of the thickest fogs the rock prison island had experienced since it became the home of desperate Federal convicts in 1934, the five prisoners slipped quietly through the bars they had severed and out into the darkness.

At 4 a. m. a guard noticed the empty cells and saw the severed bars. In a moment the entire twelve-acre island was aglow with light. But even powerful searchlights did not penetrate far into the fog, which Warden James A. Johnston described as "like a mass of wool."

Guards along the island's rim finally sighted the prisoners fleeing toward waters of San Francisco Bay.

Barker was shot through the head and legs as he ignored a guard's order to halt. Dale Stamphill, twenty-seven, Oklahoma kidnaper, was shot through both legs.

Other Three Surrender

The other three fugitives surrendered. They were William McCain, thirty-six, a kidnaper; Henry Young, twenty-eight, bank robber, and William Martin, twenty-five, Negro, a postoffice robber.

Martin was bruised and cut as he slid down the rocky northwest side of the island toward the water. Warden Johnston said the convict was collecting pieces of driftwood and tying them together when ordered to surrender.

Incidentally, Alcatraz gave up one of its secrets—one of the things that keeps alive the hope of escape.

The secret was driftwood. Day by day the "escape-minded" prisoners among Alcatraz's 300 to 400 convicts see logs, boxes, old masts and other flotsam drifting past, offering potential lifesavers to any one who would attempt to swim the mile and a quarter of treacherous bay current to the mainland.

How the convicts got the saws remained a mystery. Johnston said the prisoners were permitted to have no direct contact with any one from the outside. Whether they filched the instruments from the prison machine shop was "a matter of speculation," the warden said. The saws were not found.

To get out of the cells, each prisoner had to saw through several steel bars, each about three-fourths of an inch in diameter.

Barker, a leader of the Barker-Karpis gang, was serving a life sentence for the kidnaping of Mr. Bremer. Alvin Karpis, co-leader of the notorious gang, also is in Alcatraz. Stamphill is serving a life term for the abduction of Dr. Fred L. Myers, of Leedey, Okla.

Under 99-Year Sentence

McCain is under a ninet-nine-year sentence for kidnaping employees of the Idabel, Okla., National Bank. Young robbed the First National Bank of Lind, Wash., and is serving twenty years. Martin is under a twenty-five-year sentence for a postoffice robbery in Illinois.

Presumably the five were following the same route taken by Ted Cole and Ralph Roe, the first convicts to escape from Alcatraz, who disappeared from the island prison in a heavy fog on Dec. 16, 1937. Johnston expressed belief Cole and Roe drowned in the treacherous tides, but some prisoners have clung to the belief the pair escaped.

An abortive attempt to escape from Alcatraz ended in the death of a prisoner and guard last May 23 and the conviction of two other convicts on murder charges.

James C. Lucas, Rufus Franklin and Thomas E. Limerick broke through a window in the prison carpenter shop and attempted to scale a wall to freedom. Limerick was killed by a tower guard and Franklin seriously wounded. Lucas sur-

After the escape had been thwarted, prison officials discovered Royal M. Cline, carpenter shop guard, lying on the floor of the shop, fatally injured, his head battered.

Lucas and Franklin were convicted last November for Cline's death.

Convicts Locked in Cells

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (AP).—More than 300 "hard-boiled" convicts were locked in their cells on Alcatraz Island today for careful inspection as a result of an attempted jailbreak by five prisoners. James V. Bennett, director of the Federal Prison Bureau, said all normal activities would be suspended at Alcatraz pending a thorough search of every inmate.

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CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

DATE JAN 14 1939

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176-4175-70

were split up. That's one big reason a lot of jobs don't pan out. The big shots never talk, but the little ones can't keep anything to themselves.

Jack Statig was working on a getaway before he blew his top. He got hold of a pint of acid and he was trying to get hold of some other stuff to make an explosive. He was going to blow the side of the wall out, and he said he had enough high jees lined up so that he thought some of them could get away.

He tried to proposition me to help him, but I wouldn't play. The next thing I knew he had got hold of \$300 toward buying a couple of roscoes. But it wasn't enough money and they never got the roscoes, and as far as I know the acid is still planted somewhere along with the \$300.

RED LINE IS OUTCOME

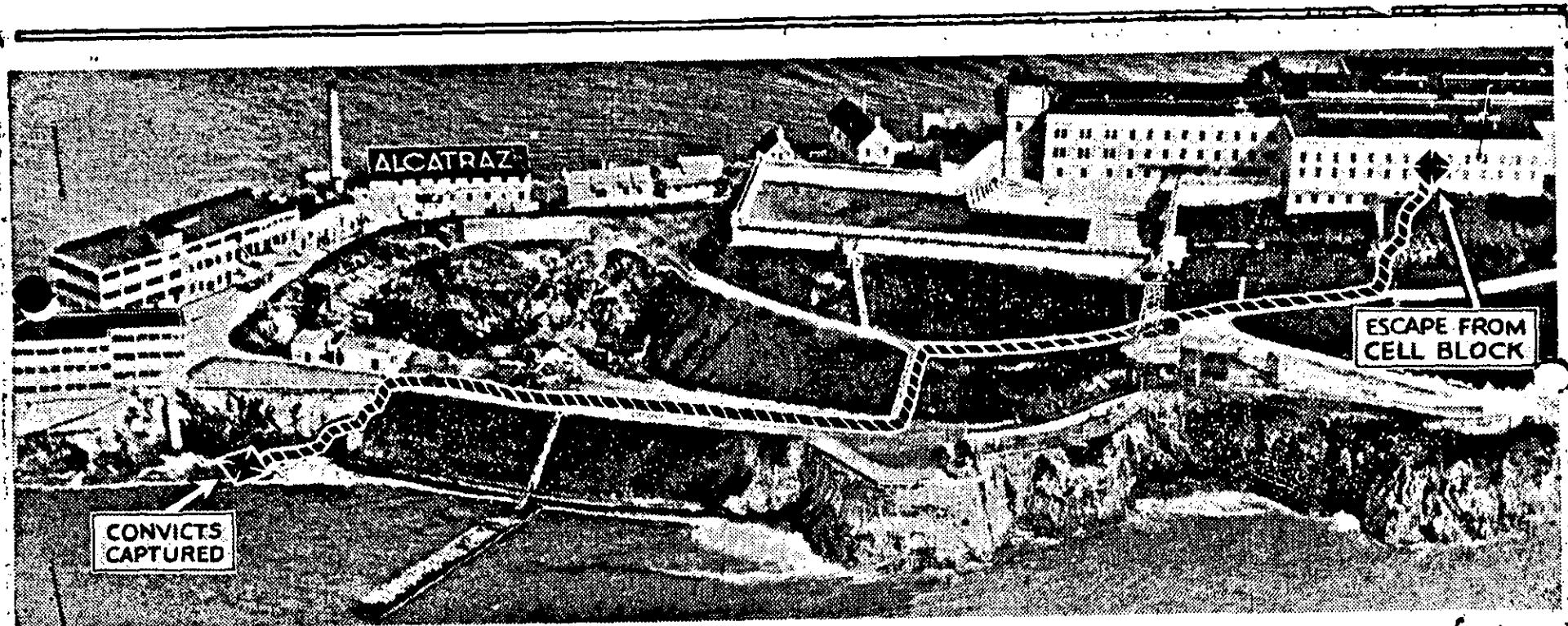
In each corner of the prison yard they have a little box for the guards with a screen across it. These fellows figured to get a lot of convicts grouped under one of the boxes, boost a man up on their shoulders, and have him grab the guard and his gun. With that gun they were going to knock the other guards over, get their guns and then boost themselves over the wall by using a big crate from the baseball field. The guards got wind of it, and now there's a red line six feet in front of each guard box and the convicts can't cross it.

It's my strictly personal guess that trouble on the Rock could be headed off by taking ten or fifteen men—that's all the real trouble-makers they have—and segregating 'em.

A good 60 or 70 per cent of the men are trying to do their time peacefully, as long as they're let alone and not agitated. But when somebody comes along and starts a job and offers to cut you in and you won't go in, then you're in a crack, going and coming.

If you go in, you're a heel with the guards, and will maybe get your head blown off. If you stay out, then the rest of the convicts will make it hot for you, talking about you and calling you a scab and fink and yellow and loud-mouthing all over the lot. If you start a fight with them over it, the guards grab you and throw you in the hole.

The only other way I can see to avoid trouble would be to make Alcatraz a strictly tough stir and keep everybody out of it who isn't tough.



Alcatraz Prison showing convicts' route from cell block to point on island where they were captured

JAN 14 1939

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

Prison Record

Bullet Victim

Last of Clan

Lying behind a machine gun, Ma Barker poured lead at Federal agents until a bullet ended her life.

That was in Florida.

Early yesterday, on fog-shrouded Alcatraz island, another Federal bullet brought a possible end to the life of her "baby," Arthur "Doc" Barker, last of the vicious Barker clan that came out of the Ozarks to leave a red trail over the Nation.

There were five of the outlaw Barkers. One was killed by police while still in small-time as a criminal. Another was sent to Leavenworth for life. Fred and Doc followed Ma into a nationally notorious career of robbery and kidnaping, culminating with their biggest job, the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, in 1934.

CAPTURED IN CHICAGO

In January, 1935, Doc Barker was captured in Chicago.

Ten days later the Federals found Ma and Fred in Florida.

Ma had a machine gun. Fred an automatic rifle.

Both were firing as they died.

Of the other prisoners who attempted escape from Alcatraz, Dale Stamphill, 27, also is serving a sentence for kidnaping. His victim was Dr. Fred Louis Meyers, who was kidnaped after a bank robbery and taken from Leevy, Okla., to Canadian, Texas.

Rufus McCaxin, 36, was convicted of kidnaping bank employes in an attempted bank robbery at Idabel, Okla. His sentence was 99 years.

CONVICTED OF ROBBERY

Henri Young, 28, was convicted of robbing a Lind, Wash., bank and sentenced to 20 years.

William Martin, 25, robbed a Chicago postoffice and was sentenced to 25 years.

All were described by the Department of Justice at Washington as prisoners who have been "difficult to manage," and Young, a former inmate at McNeil island, was described as a "disciplinary problem," who took part in the 1937 Alcatraz strike.

SAN FRANCISCO CIRCUIT

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SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 14 1939

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Barker Killed

in Alcatraz

Break

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

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JAN 14 1939

76-4115-1

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Two Shot Bullets Foil Escape From 'The Rock'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13
(AP)—The Justice Department announced tonight that Arthur (Doc) Barker, gang leader who sought to escape Alcatraz Prison, died tonight of gunshot wounds inflicted when he ignored commands of guards to halt.

Warden James M. Johnston of Alcatraz notified the department of Barker's death.

Barker was one of five convicts who sawed their way out of a cell and sought to escape into fog-bound San Francisco bay early today. A second convict, Dale Stamphill, Oklahoma kidnaper, was wounded.

Barker was shot through the head and legs.

Two Alcatraz convicts were shot and three others were captured in a desperate escape attempt in the dense fog of early yesterday. The injured men were in a serious condition last night.

The attempted break brought Prisons Director James V. Bennett speeding westward from Washington to make a thorough inquiry.

Obtaining saws the men had cut through bars of their five individual cells, sawed and pried open bars of an outer window of the cell block and fled to a beach on the island.

PRISON SIREN SOUNDS

Then the plot was discovered. The prison's siren screamed above the roar of the bay's fog horns, sounding through a "wool thick" atmosphere.

Coast Guard and police boats joined the Alcatraz launch.

Piercing lights against the blanket of white that shrouded the island revealed the five men huddled on the beach, nearly nude, striving desperately to fashion bits of drift wood into a raft, using their clothes to bind it.

Shots from the launch followed the light into the dim group. From the other direction guards' rifles blazed.

Arthur "Doc" Barker, one of the most notorious of the island's more than 300 "hard boiled" criminals, fell with a bullet through the back of his neck that came out near his right eye, and another bullet in the thigh.

KIDNAPER SHOT

Dale Stamphill, another kidnaper, sentenced to life, dropped with a bullet through his left leg above the knee and another in the right leg near the ankle. The upper bullet was believed to have severed a major artery and he bled profusely. His condition was critical.

Cut and bruised by rocks and possibly suffering other injuries, William Martin, Negro, a postoffice robber, also was taken to the hospital.

Rufus McCain, serving 39 years for kidnaping, and Henri Young, national bank robber, surrendered as they saw their comrades fall.

Alcatraz officials immediately started a search to learn how the convicts obtained the saws, cut the bars and obtained their brief liberty.

Bennett left Washington by train
Continued on Page 3, Col. 3

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

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Two Shot, Two Captured

More on Alcatraz Escape Plot

Continued from Page 1
and planned to board a plane at Chicago.

He said prison officials had "no idea" where the convicts obtained the saw or saws.

Every prisoner's clothing, shoes, bedding and cell, he said, was to be subjected to the closest examination.

The break was discovered by the officer in charge of the cell block at about 4 a. m. Immediately the siren was blown.

San Francisco police were notified at 4:14 a. m. and the police boat L. A. White sped to the island. Coast Guard cutters joined it. Ashore soldiers at the Presidio patrolled the beach in the event the men were carried in by the swiftly swirling tides.

Fifteen police radio cars cruised back and forth along the water's edge.

Late yesterday prison doctors were unable to say whether Barker, one of the four sons led in a famous crime career by their mother, "Ma" Barker, would survive.

ALL CAPTURED

Within approximately an hour after the escape was discovered all were captured. All normal activities of the prison were suspended and prisoners locked in their cells.

The first attempted escape from the Rock since it became a Federal prison was by Dutch Bowers, killed trying to climb a wire fence. Ted Cole and Ralph Roe reached the water and disappeared. No trace of them has been found. That was in December, 1937.

Last May three convicts broke from a prison shop and reached the roof. Guard Royal Cline and Convict Thomas Limerick were slain.

In a cell only a short distance from that of Barker was Alvin Karpis, Barker's former partner, who was led into big-time crime by "Ma" Barker and her boys.

All to Win, Nothing To Lose for Convicts

Life to gain, nothing to lose—except possibly a life already in forfeit.

That was the motive of the Friday the 13th gamble of the five Alcatraz convicts yesterday.

Frank J. Hennessy, United States Attorney, said that unless he receives orders from Washington he will not prosecute any of the convicts. Conviction would mean a maximum sentence of five years or a \$5000 fine or both.

It would be an "idle gesture" to add five years to the sentence of Arthur Barker, 40, who is doing life, or to that of Rufus McCane, 27, sentenced to 89 years, on kidnaping convictions, said Hennessy.

Henri Young, 28, is serving a 20-year term for robbing a national bank, and William Martin is serving 25 years for a postoffice robbery.

All the men will lose their credits for good behavior and convictions would serve no purpose, the attorney said. There would be no chance of collecting the fines, he added.

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GALL BRINGS QUICK ACTION BY S. F. POLICE

Boat Speeds to Island as Six
Radio Patrol Cars Take Up
Guard Over Waterfront

Ten minutes after the first "escape" message was flashed from Alcatraz yesterday morning, the waterfronts of Marin, Alameda and San Francisco counties were bristling with armed officers.

So swift and methodical was the response to Warden James A. Johnston's warning that, had the five felons succeeded in getting off the island by boat or raft, their ultimate escape would have been a miracle.

The land and sea mobilization was accomplished with the precision and dispatch of a well-drilled war-time maneuver.

TELEPHONED FLASH.

First telephone flash came to the San Francisco police department. An Alcatraz attache told Night Operator Ralph H. McKenna:

"Five men have escaped the cell-block. We want help."

That was at 4:13 a. m. A minute later, the police boat D. A. White had been notified and was leaving her pier to speed toward the Rock. Moments later, six radio cars were on their way to strategic points along the waterfront.

AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED.

Meantime Alcatraz authorities had notified the Coast Guard, the Army and the police of all neighboring counties.

The Coast Guard dispatched the cutter Daphne and two picket boats to patrol the Alcatraz waters.

Word reached the Presidio at almost the same moment and an officer and ten men were immediately ordered to patrol the beach front along Crissy Field.

A call was put through to Chief Agent Nat Pieper of the local Federal Bureau of Investigation office and Pieper himself mobilized his staff and hastened to Alcatraz.

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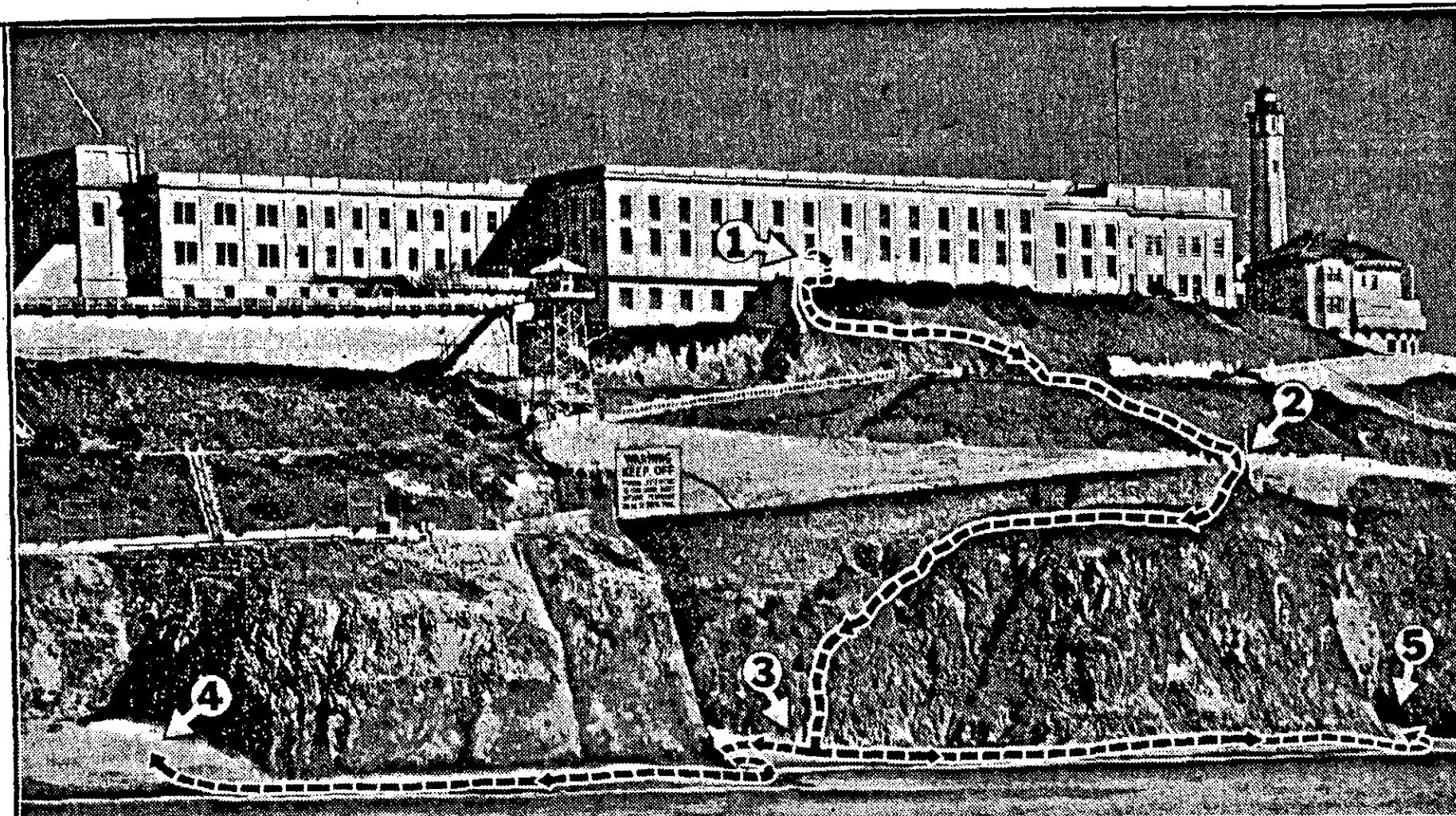
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JAN 14 1939

Gamble With Death at Prison

HOW FELONS' ESCAPE WAS THWARTED



THWARTED—Here's how the Alcatraz escape attempt failed. The five felons made way through window (1). Then they ran to bluff (2) and clambered down rocks to cove (3).

Arthur "Doc" Barker and Dale Stamphill were shot by guards there. Convicts Rufus McCain and Henri Young made way along beach to cove (4) where they were captured attempt-

ing to build rafts of driftwood. Convict William Martin was captured (5) as he sought to use his clothing to tie together a driftwood raft so he could make his escape in the dense bay fog.

—Photo by San Francisco Examiner.

Inside Details of Rock Break Plot to Be Bared

What lay behind the latest desperate attempt of five convicts to break out of Alcatraz? Who was the "brains" behind the break? How did they get hold of the tools with which they sawed their way out?—

P. F. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz," who served a four-year "stretch" on Hell Rock, answers these questions, as only an "insider"

could answer them, in a series of two articles beginning in tomorrow's Examiner.

Reed, whose sensational series in The Examiner gave the first complete inside picture of the workings of "The Rock," will shed a new and sensational light on the latest attempt by convicts to beat Alcatraz. Reed virtually forecast this break in his previous writings.

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Police Record of Five Desperadoes

Toughest of the five felons who tried to saw their way out of Alcatraz early yesterday was Arthur "Doc" Barker, 40, member of the notorious murder and kidnaping combine headed by Barker and Alvin Karpis.

The record of Barker, who was fatally wounded in yesterday's escape attempt, dates back 18 years to August, 1921, when he was convicted of killing Thomas J. Sherrill, elderly night watchman at St. John's Hospital, Tulsa, Okla. He was sentenced to life in the Oklahoma State penitentiary, but was paroled September 10, 1932.

Two years later he and Karpis engineered the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, and released him 21 days later on payment of \$200,000 ransom.

ASSOCIATE SLAIN.

Department of Justice agents followed Barker's trail for a year, finally caught him in Chicago on January 8, 1935. They took Barker alive, but killed an associate, Russell Gibson. Earlier, they had killed "Ma" Barker and Fred Barker, mother and brother of the outlaw, in a pitched battle at Oklawaha, Fla.

Convicted of the kidnaping, Barker was sentenced to life imprisonment and brought to Alcatraz.

Records of the other four convicts in the escape plot:

Dale Stamphill, 27, was serving a life term for kidnaping Dr. Fred L. Meyers in Leedy, Okla., in 1935.

Stamphill had been a leader in the break of 33 inmates of the Granite, Okla., reformatory a few months earlier, in which a guard was killed.

ANOTHER KIDNAPING.

Following the break, Stamphill teamed up with Malloy Kuykendall and W. L. Baker Jr., to conduct a reign of terror climaxing by a bank robbery and the kidnaping of Dr. Myers. They were captured, sentenced to life at McAlester Penitentiary.

After Kuykendall broke out of the Alcatraz strike of 1937, that prison and was recaptured following another kidnaping, the Federal Government decided to take all three of the young hoodlums in hand, tried and convicted them in the Myers case, and sent them to "The Rock."

Rufus McCain, 36, was also a kidnaping, spending 38 years in Alcatraz for the abduction or bank employes during an attempted robbery of the National Bank of Idabel, Okla. Originally sent to Leavenworth, he was transferred to Alcatraz after he attacked a fellow inmate at the Kansas prison.

Henri Young, 28, had only one major "job" to his record—robbery of the First National Bank at Lind, Washington. He was sentenced to McNeil Island for 20 years in 1937, transferred to Alcatraz, and was a participant in the strike at Alcatraz.

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PRIOR ATTEMPTS TO FLEE RECALLED

Tragedy Marks Record of Island Prison

Twice before, desperate little groups of Alcatraz long-timers have taken the short end of the "chance in a million" in efforts to crash out of the nation's toughest prison.

What happened to Theodore Cole and Ralph Roe has never been learned.

What happened to James Lucas, Rufus Franklin and Thomas Limerick is a matter of record—two are serving life terms for the murder of Guard Royal C. Cline; Limerick was shot to death in the battle on the "Rock."

Roe and Cole, Oklahoma bad men, made their fantastic escape try a year ago last December, under a mantle of fog comparable to that in which the five convicts dashed for freedom yesterday.

The morning of December 16, the two men slipped through a

window in the machine shop in which they were working, and dropped out of sight. Their escape was discovered within a half hour—but from that day to this, no tangible clue to their fate has been found.

Whether they tried to swim the chill, swirling waters and were drowned, whether they had fashioned a crude raft and capsized, or whether, by some outside chance they actually made shore and shrewdly dropped from sight, has never been learned.

One of the most intensive man-hunts in the region's history was carried on for weeks, but failed to discover a single trace. Warden James A. Johnston expressed the conviction that the two had drowned, and the complete absence of evidence to the contrary has added weight to his contention.

DESPERATE ATTEMPT.

On May 23, five months after Roe and Cole made their dash for freedom, Lucas, Franklin, and

Limerick made their desperate plunge. But they took a different route.

The three clubbed Guard Cline unconscious in the model shop, climbed through a window onto a roof top, and tried to "rush" Tower Guard Harold Stites.

But Stites stood, calmly, and poured lead at the trio, killing Limerick and wounding Franklin. Lucas put up his hands and surrendered.

LIFE SENTENCES.

Cline died the next day, and for his murder, Lucas and Franklin were tried in Federal Court. The jury returned a verdict of first degree murder with recommendation for leniency, and the two went back to "The Rock" to serve out their life sentences.

Prior to either of these attempts was the incident of the fatal shooting of Joe "Dutch" Bowers, mail robber. Prison officials said he was shot to

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Barker Slain

in Alcatraz

Break

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76-417-11

JAN 14 1939

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Prison Searched For Arms After 5 Fail in Escape Plot

Sweeping Inquiry Launched
But Saws Used by Men
Not Discovered

BARS OF 5 CELLS CUT

By ALVIN D. HYMAN

Arthur "Doc" Barker, a public enemy of note before Alcatraz took him over, took the short end of a thousand-to-one gamble at freedom yesterday—and lost.

Last night, the one-time partner of Alvin "Creepy" Karpis paid his debt in full. He died in the prison hospital, twelve hours after he and four fellow convicts were captured at the edge of the island, desperately trying to fashion driftwood rafts to aid them in reaching the mainland.

Even as Barker died, the most intensive "shakedown" in the brief but turbulent history of the Federal penitentiary on "The Rock" was being launched, to hunt out the vulnerable point in Alcatraz' internal armor.



ARTHUR 'DOC' BARKER
Succumbs to Wound
—International News Photo

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SAW CELL BARS.

For the five men had sawed their way through specially treated bars of five cells, cut their way through the outer bars of the "escape proof" prison and leaped down over the cliff to the narrow beach before the guards caught up with them. At that point, Barker's overwhelming yearning for freedom outweighed his fear of the guards' rifles, and he tried to run for it. So did Dale Stamp-hill, Oklahoma kidnapster.

A roar of rifle fire rang out, and both men fell, Barker with a bullet in his skull and another in his leg, and Stamp-hill with a shattered thigh and leg.

Last night, as Barker was carried, dead, from the prison hospital, Stamp-hill's condition was reported serious.

Barker's body was brought to San Francisco in a launch, and placed in the county morgue.

The three other partners in the escape plot—Kidnapster Rufus McCain, Bank Robber Henri Young and William Martin, Negro post office robber—surrendered in the face of the guards' guns.

PRISON SEACHED.

McCain and Young surrendered together. Martin, who had apparently detached himself from the four white men, was found a quarter hour later on a narrow stretch of beach, naked and working furiously in an effort to tie drift wood together with his clothes and improvise a raft.

He received hospital treatment for exposure and for cuts and

bruises received in scrambling down the rocky cliffs to the water.

With the five convicts recaptured, Warden James A. Johnson immediately launched a prison-wide "shakedown" designed not only to uncover the facts behind the almost-successful break, but also to prevent a recurrence.

Every mattress and piece of clothing and stick of furniture in every cell was subjected to minute scrutiny by guards and by the celebrated "electric stool-pigeon," the mess hall and the bathroom, and the numerous shops were closely examined; every conceivable hiding place on the Rock was pried into as authorities went after possible weapons or instruments which might aid a prisoner toward escape.

Despite the closeness of the search, the saw-blades used to cut the "saw-proof" steel of cell bars and window bars had not been found by nightfall.

Nor had prison officials found an answer to the obvious questions posed by the "caper" of the five desperadoes, such questions

as: Where did they obtain the saw blades? How were they able to cut through, not only one, but five cells? How could they escape detection while, out of their cells, they performed the

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Doc Barker Slain, Pal Shot As 5 Fail in Alcatraz Break

CONVICTS SEIZED BY ARMED GUARDS ON BEACH

(Continued from Page One)

long and difficult task of cutting the bars of the cellhouse window?

PRISON HEAD DUE HERE.

So important were the early and correct answers to such questions considered that James V. Bennett, director of Federal prisons, left Washington a few hours after news of the attempted escape reached him, and started for San Francisco to take personal charge of the investigation. He intended to go to Chicago by train and then hasten the journey by flying to this Coast.

Meanwhile, Nat Pieper and his

G-men were on the island, aiding Warden Johnston in the investigation.

The five convicts, Warden Johnston disclosed, made their break at approximately 3:45 a. m.

"We know they were in their cells at 3:30," he said. "We found they were missing when we made the hourly checkup at 4 a. m. An alarm was immediately sounded. Every guard on the island was awakened. San Francisco police and the Coast Guard, and military authorities at the Presidio, and police of the East Bay and Marin were notified in accordance with a pre-arranged escape plan.

VISIBILITY LOW.

"Everything worked out as planned. Local police threw men along their respective waterfronts. The San Francisco police boat, and three Coast Guard boats came up and began cruising around the island. Our own launch, with its searchlights stabbing the intense fog, cruised closer to the shore.

"It was the foggiest night I have ever seen. Visibility was



HENRI YOUNG

Captured Convict

—International News Sound Photo.

little above zero. The guards formed a ring around the entire outer edge of the island, and then began closing in, backed up by the boats."

LONG PLANNED.

The search, Warden Johnston said, had been actually under way only a few minutes when the convicts were spotted on the beach.

"They were ordered to surrender," he said, "and the order was repeated as the two men started to run. When they refused to halt, the guards opened fire."



DALE SAMPHILL.

Shot by Guards

—International News Sound Photo.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

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Although the attempted break had obviously been planned long in advance, and although it seems certain that the bar-sawing must have been done in snatches over a long period of time, Warden Johnston pointed out that nothing definite can be learned on these points.

"Anything I might say about that," he told newspapermen, "would be pure speculation."

It was generally believed that the five convicts, following the technique first used by Ted Cole and Ralph Roe when they disappeared from the Island in December, 1937, deliberately waited for a heavy fog to shield their movements.

Mariners described the fog that swirled around the island early yesterday morning as the heaviest of the season—and Warden Johnston, who made a personal test as soon as the convicts were rounded up, declared it was impossible for any guard in any of the towers to spot the men as they moved through the fog to the beach.

PREVIOUS BREAK.

Participation of Barker in the unsuccessful attempt to "beat" the Rock brought up interesting conjectures. Discharged Alcatraz prisoners have revealed that Alcatraz convicts generally believe that Barker engineered and financed the celebrated Cole-Roe break. They say Barker and many others were scheduled to make the break, that a boat had been "planted" near the island; that Cole and Roe had double-crossed their confederates by making the break alone and ahead of schedule.

Accepting this theory as cor-



RUFUS McCAIN

Escape Thwarted

—International News Photo.

rect, and also accepting the convict belief that Cole and Roe did not drown but made a clean getaway, it was held not impossible that Cole and Roe may have had a boat waiting, somewhere in the fog, when the five made their dash early yesterday.

Against any such possibility, however, is the official belief that Cole and Roe drowned, plus the report of police and Coast Guard boats that cruised around the island early yesterday. No "strange" boats were near the island, they said.

Nevertheless, the search was extended throughout the day and into the early hours of this morning. A Coast Guard cutter cruised the Marin County waterfront past midnight, flashing its powerful searchlight upon all mooring docks. One blast of its whistle was answered by two blasts from Alcatraz, and the cutter headed back across the Bay toward San Francisco.

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Mr. Crowley.....
Egan.....
Doworth.....
Wise.....
W...
✓

Bennett Flies Here To See 'Rock' Saws

Alcatraz Due for Record Shakeup as Result Of 5 Felons Hacking Cell Bars

As quietly as inmates try to slip out, James V. Bennett, "head man" of America's federal prisons, apparently slipped silently into Alcatraz today.

Official government cars met a ferry today and an unidentified visitor whisked to Alcatraz via special launch, but neither Bennett nor Warden James Johnston was available to confirm his arrival.

Bennett was expected to arrive by plane and Warden Johnston said earlier that he expected him "by noon."

Bennett's trip here was chiefly to see about the saws which "sprung" five felons from their Alcatraz cell block and to head a thorough shaking down of the prison as the result of the latest escape try to end in violent failure."

3 VITAL QUESTIONS

With prison officials and G-men balked in a three day inch-by-inch search for the saws with which the slain Arthur ("Doc") Barker and four lesser prisoners cut their way out, the entire island faced a figurative inside-out turning, to reach the answer to these three questions:

How were the saws obtained and secreted and later disposed of after the convicts "made it" to the beach, where two were shot and all five captured Friday morning?

"GUARD LAXITY DOUBTED

How could the severing of the bars of five separate cells, necessarily a painstaking task of possibly weeks, have been concealed from guards?

What drastic, long-range changes are needed on Alcatraz to insure against a repetition of the escape try, which came all too close to succeeding?

No action has been taken against any guard for laxity, prison officials said, as there was no evidence that any had failed to exercise the greatest care and vigilance.

SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN

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JAN 16 1939

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"It was simply a case of being unable to be more than one place at the same time," Warden Johnston said.

CELL BREAKERS GRILLED

With Bennett's arrival from Washington the four survivors of the attempted break—three in solitary and one in the prison hospital—faced renewed grilling.

Bennett was expected to lead the questioning of Dale Stamps-hill, shot in both legs but reported improving in the prison hospital after being near death from loss of blood.

The other three in solitary confinement are Rufus McCain, bank robber and kidnap; Henri Young, bank robber, and William Martin, Negro, postoffice robber. Previous questioning by prison officials revealed nothing to solve the riddle of the escape, it was reported.

OUTSIDE AID HUNTED

Possibility that the escape conspirators might have counted on outside aid in their escape was still being considered, but no evidence to support this theory has been uncovered, Warden Johnston said.

The body of Barker, former co-leader of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang, serving life for the \$200,000 Bremer kidnaping, lay at the morgue here, awaiting claim from his father, George Barker of Joplin, Mo.

Barker, shot in the head and dying when he ignored guards' orders to halt at the water's edge, died in the prison hospital late Friday.

An inquest into his death will be set later in the week, Coroner T. B. W. Leland said, probably for Thursday.

SAN FRANCISCO CALL-BULLETIN

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JAN 16 1939

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

JAN 24 1939

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Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
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Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

P.D.
FEB 2 1939
RECEIVED
U.S. MAIL

SAN FRANCISCO--A CORONER'S JURY TODAY RECOMMENDED THAT THE FEDERAL PRISON AT ALCATRAZ ISLAND IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY BE MOVED TO SOME OTHER LOCATION.

1/24 ON542P

ADD ALCATRAZ, SAN FRANCISCO

THE JURY DELIBERATED ON THE DEATH OF ARTHUR (DOC) BARKER, ONE-TIME GANGSTER, KILLED BY GUARDS WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE WITH FIVE OTHER CONVICTS FROM THE ISLAND. IT RETURNED A VERDICT THAT BARKER MET DEATH "AT THE HANDS OF GUARDS UNKNOWN."

THE JURY'S VERDICT ADDED THAT SAN FRANCISCO CITIZENS SHOULD "UNITE TO HAVE A MORE SUITABLE LOCATION UTILIZED FOR IMPRISONMENT OF THE TYPE OF DESPERADOES AT PRESENT ON ALCATRAZ."

1/24 ON552P

76-4175-A

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

JAN 21 1939

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Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

SAN FRANCISCO--DISTRICT ATTORNEY MATTHEW BRADY TODAY URGED ABANDONMENT OF ALCATRAZ AS A FEDERAL PRISON.

AROUSED BY LAST WEEK'S ATTEMPTED BREAK, BRADY RECOMMENDED THAT THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE START A DRIVE TO HAVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFER ITS "DEVIL'S ISLAND" ELSEWHERE.

THE RECOMMENDATION WAS IN A LETTER TO MARSHALL DILL, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

1/21 ON245P J

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1/21/39
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1/21/39 10:00 AM '39

76-4475-1

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Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
Franken

X-RAY EYES HUNT

SAWS USED

IN ALCATRAZ

PRISON BREAK

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

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SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

76 417-11

JAN 14 1935

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OFFICIALS HERE AND IN EAST ARE WORRIED

Portable Scientific Devices
Balked in Search for Con-
victs' Escape Tools

U.S. DIRECTOR ON WAY HERE

Bennett to Arrive Monday to
Join Warden Johnston in
Investigation

Portable "electric eyes" peered over every suspected inch of Alcatraz today as an alarmed Government sought the gaping hole that criminal cunning has knocked in The Rock's vaunted impregnability.

But after more than 24 hours of search, these and other scientific devices had not found the saws which five felons yesterday used to escape their cells.

One convict, notorious Arthur (Doc) Barker, died last night of wounds from guards' rifles when the men were found at the water's edge. Dale Stumphill, Oklahoma lifer who was also wounded, still was in a serious condition but doctors gave him a good chance for life. The three others surrendered.

Officials Worried

"We have not found the saws, and nothing else has developed," said sleepy-voiced Warden James A. Johnston. He had been up most of the night, after being roused but at 4 a. m. the night before.

Behind his casual and uncommunicative comment lay deep worry among officialdom here and in Washington.

Prison Director Coming

Though the warden would not say so, yesterday's bloody break brought the most serious threat to the prison's security since it was established in 1933—that is why Director of Prisons James V. Bennett is coming here from Washington.

There have been other island escape attempts that were more spectacular without bringing Mr. Bennett here on the run. He will arrive Monday.

He and Warden Johnston want the answers to these questions:

From where came the saws, obviously numerous and of good quality to bite through specially treated steel?

How, in so brief a time, could five convicts in five separate cells saw through five separate doors and then through an outside corridor window? They are checked hourly.

And if they did it over a period of days, why did not routine inspections discover their work?

Why did not the magnetic detectors ("electric eyes") find the saws as they were brought into the main cell block?

If the saws were slipped in from a prison workshop, why did not the daily equipment count disclose their absence?

There were other questions, too, but these were enough to make the warden red-eyed from loss of sleep.

Portable Electric Eyes

The warden disclosed for the first time that the prison is equipped with portable electric eyes, now searching out every conceivable place that the saws might be hidden.

The magnetic detectors or electric eyes are stationed at several points in the main cellblock, and should disclose any metal object, no matter how small, that a convict might try to take into his cell with him, said the warden.

There was always the possibility, too, that the convicts threw them into the Bay.

He does not believe that the saws

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MORE ABOUT
ALCATRAZ

(Continued From Page 1)

came from off the island, Mr. Johnston said.

He would not venture an opinion as to whether the convicts had worked several nights sawing the bars.

"That's awfully hard to say," he explained. "I hesitate to conjecture."

Meanwhile Coroner T. H. W. Leland announced that an inquest would be held next week into the death of Barker.

Services for Barker
Barker's body was brought to the mainland last night and placed in the W. C. Lagewell mortuary. From there, unless Barker's aged father in Missouri claims the body, funeral services will be held next week.

The mortician, who has the Government contract for burying bodies of unclaimed prisoners, said "simple but respectful" services would be conducted.

Barker's death at 40 ended a criminal career that began when he was a boy in the lead and zinc mining country of the Ozark Hills. It wipes out all but one of the criminal Barker family—a brother in Leavenworth.

The other convicts in the escape attempt, Henry Young, 34, Rufus McCain, 36, and William Martin, 25, got the customary solitary treatment.

Sixth Fatal Attempt

Barker was the sixth man to die a violent death in efforts of felons to beat the Rock—sixth, that is, if the Government is right in its belief that Ralph Roe and Ted Cole drowned.

One of these six was a guard, Royal C. Cline, slain last spring by Rufus Franklin and James Lucas in the escape plot that brought death to Thomas Limerick. The other was Joe (Dutch) Bowers, mail robber, shot as he attempted to scale the fence.

This latest chapter of prison violence began in the year's densest fog shortly before 4 a. m. yesterday when the five crept from their cells in the main cell block. Down the corridor they crept, through a corridor window and down to the ground.

To Water's Edge
Eluding the guard watch in the fog, they ran and slid down to the island's Golden Gate side, scaled a high fence and scrambled down a short cliff to the water's edge.

It was there that guards, called from bed when the absence of the felons from their cells was discovered at 4 a. m., picked out the group in the fog. Young and McCain gave up without a struggle.

Rifles brought down Barker and Stimpill when they ran.

Martin was found separately, desperately attempting to fashion driftwood—soft.

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ALCATRAZ TENSION MOUNTS BECAUSE SAWS USED FOR ESCAPE ARE STILL MISSING

Blades Not Traced Beyond Corridor Where Convicts Cut Through Barred Windows; May Be Lost in Bay Waters

Tiny saw blades—to desperate convicts a treasure greater than gold, to prison keepers a threat as serious as guns—are suspended like swords over the heads of Alcatraz officialdom. So long as those saw blades are missing—and today Warden James A. Johnston was directing the fourth day of a

minute but fruitless search—The Rock remains ripe for another prison break bloodier even, perhaps, than the one which Friday ended the life of notorious Arthur (Doc) Barker.

The Rock Tense

The Rock is tense and restless, gripped by the uncertainty of things to come. Guards move with a nervous alertness. Convicts are sullen and watchful.

Into this atmosphere, due sometime today, comes Director of Prisons James V. Bennett from Washington—his hurried trip indicates how important to the Department of Justice are those saws.

Where could they be?

Cut Through Bars

Five convicts used them last Thursday night to saw out of five separate cells in the main cellblock. The convicts took them from the cells into the corridor to saw through the barred corridor window. There the trace of them ends.

At Washington, Science Service suggested that the saws might be made by carbonyl, the tungsten carbide and cobalt material which ranks next to diamond in hardness. Nonmetal, it would not be detected by the prison "electric eyes."

The convicts reached water's edge before they were caught. They could have thrown the blades into the Bay. But officials do not believe so.

To The Rock's desperate men those blades are priceless. They

were left behind by the escaping felons for others who would wait another foggy night. That is what officials fear. And that is why an air of foreboding hangs over Alcatraz.

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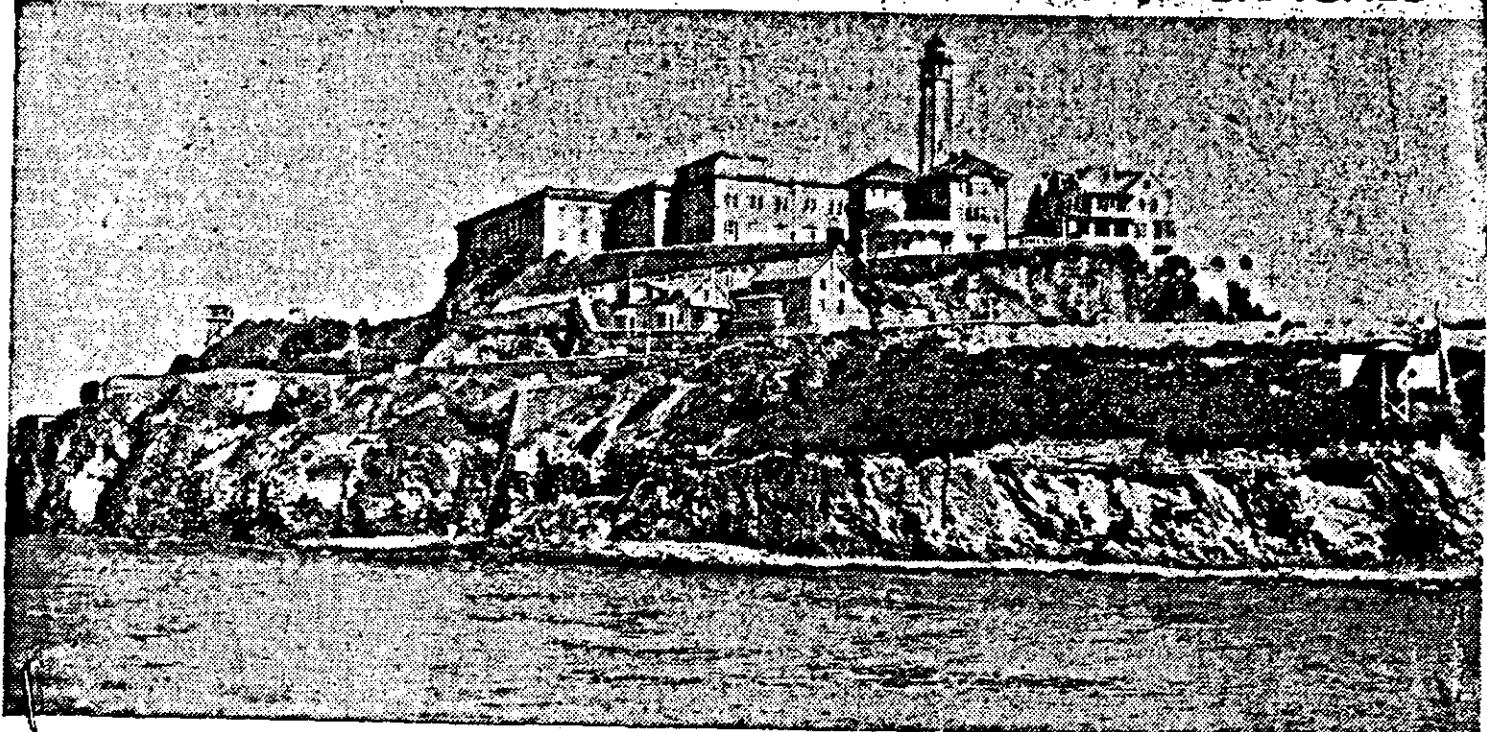
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Inside Story of Breakout At Alcatraz Revealed

THE ROCK
CRACKED



This is the supposedly "impregnable" Federal Prison at Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay. However, two prisoners have actually escaped, and five others sawed

their way to freedom last week. The five were captured before they could escape to the mainland—but not before two had been shot, one fatally. International News photo.

Saws Abound in Rock' Cells, Says Former Inmate

While prison authorities today sought the solution of how five men were able to saw their way out of their Alcatraz cells, P. F. Reed, former convict, declares that despite all precautions, dozens of saws are circulating among the prison colony.

This article, first of two by the author of "Murder on Alcatraz" who spent four years on the island, again "lifts the lid."

By P. F. REED.

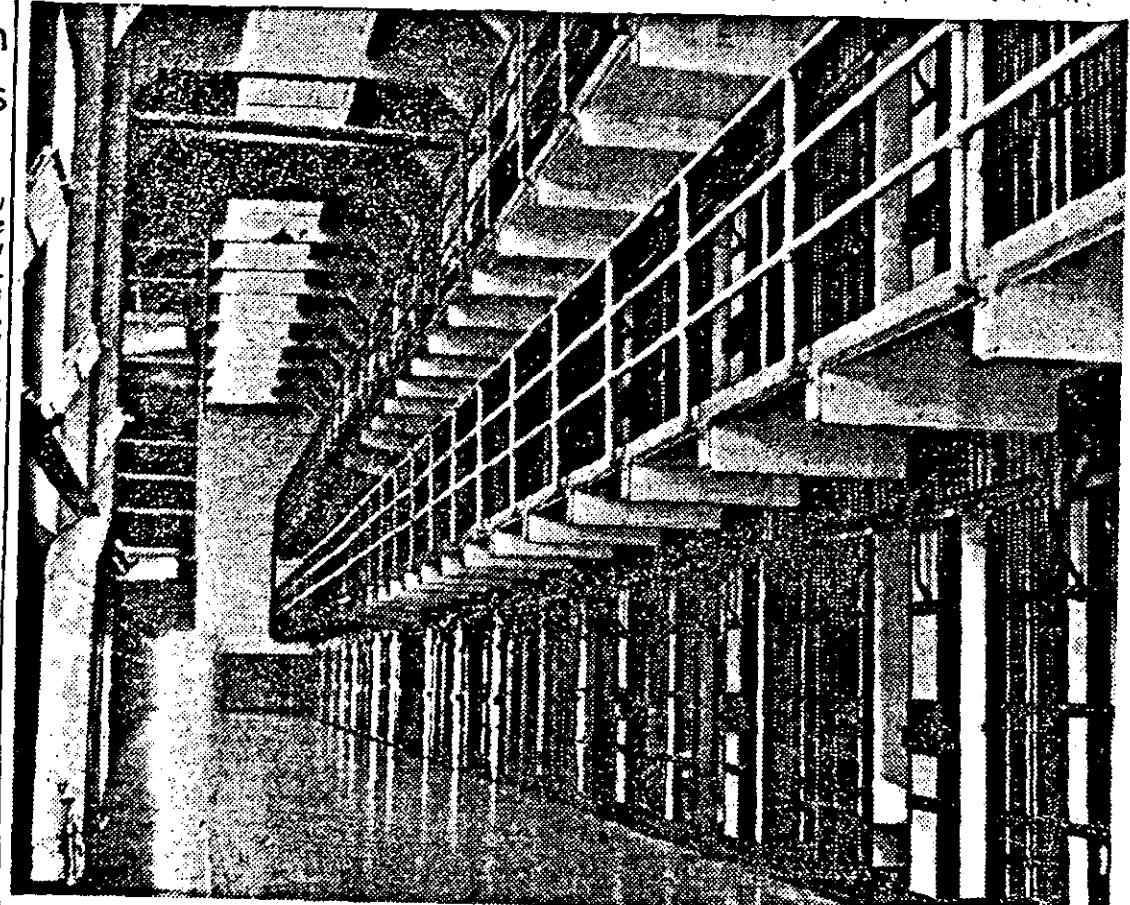
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SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 16.—The "electric stool pigeons" you have heard so much about are a long ways from fool proof.

And Uncle Sam, who spent plenty of money to make the Rock "briar proof," economized on hack saw blades.

That is the reason Arthur "Doc" Barker, one of the worst troublemakers and agitators they've ever had out on the Rock, is dead and the bars on five cell doors will have to be fixed.

Barker, "Casey" Young, Rufus McCain, Rale Stumphill and Bill Martin sawed their way out of their cells—or had the sawing one for them—with blades that ave been floating around the ship more than two years,



In his accompanying article, P. F. Reed declares that the steel bars, used in the cells, were not at all impervious to hack-saws—and also declares that there were

such blades "floating all over the place." Here is one of the cell blocks—airy, light and clean, the most up-to-date prison in the world.

Guard Tells of Losing

Hack Saw Blades

I was working in the butcher shop about June, 1936 when a hard-mechanic came in to fix a compressor that broke down and ooded the joint. He was a loud-mouthed, loose-lipped screw. He told me that he'd stolen a package of new hack saw blades. He said the ones the government furnished him weren't good and he bought some of own. Then he lost them.

The loss was never reported be-
cause he was afraid of what would happen if the warden found out it. And he never located em. They've been circulating since. There's a hundred cases around the cell-house, particularly in the kitchen basement, where they could have been stited.

Blades Can Be Hidden

Blades of Shoes

It would be a simple matter to blades into the cell block from the kitchen. How? Simply

by plastering them to the recessed bottom of the slop cans which frequently pass from the kitchen into the cell block. Even sandwiches have been brought in that way.

Any of the kitchen help or the cell-house runners who have access to the cell block after 8:30 in the morning could have carried the blades in. The kitchen help are allowed to wear belts and it would be easy for them to slip the top of their pants, stick in a couple of blades and cinch their belts up tight.

When they go through the door, they get only a rough fan. For that matter, the blades could have been carried in inside their shoe soles, slit the seam of a sewn shoe sole and slip a blade into the leather—as simple as that.

The blades could have been carried indefinitely without serious danger. In the first place there isn't a mechanical stool pigeon between the kitchen and the cell block. But even if there had been, it would have been safe enough.

I had bet Alley T. Anderson one time that he couldn't carry metal

through one of them and he won

the bet. He carried a half-inch steel bar about a foot long through the gadget and it didn't let out a chirp. Another time a mechanic packed a crescent wrench through two steel pigeons. He made two trips and the machine didn't turn a whisker.

fixed it up. Then it wasn't discovered. An old con, whom I understand was later transferred to Springfield, put the finger on it. They never did explain where those hack saw blades came from, but they were floating all over the joint.

Believes Guards Slept

During Bar Sawing

When the stir went up over there, they talked a lot about how the bars would resist any hack saw blades. If that's the case, why are they so worried about saw blades getting loose?

The blades and the bars would have been a mark for any con in the place. But the real question is how they got the bars sawed without being seen or heard by the cell block guards.

I can figure only one answer to that. The screws went to sleep.

There are always two of them on duty on the catwalks at the ends of the cell block, day and night, one at each end. At night there's a floor guard who's sup-

Con- on Page 6, Column 1.

posed to make the rounds of the tiers every half hour. Besides these, there's a lieutenant who's in and out all night long.

During the day two guards are on the floor, and there is always one on each catwalk. All of them, unless they fall asleep or just don't want to see, have a full view of the block from end to end. The walls are as bare as a pool table and as light as day in both ends and down the side corridors.

Guard on Catwalk

Snores in Afternoon

I've seen a guard on the catwalk dead to the world. I came out of the kitchen at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and you could hear him snoring all over the block. He's a big Swede and used to be a lumberjack. There he sat with his feet propped up on the bars on the cellhouse side. Any con could have stepped up on a desk below the catwalk and snatched the gun. I stopped and watched him for a minute. He snored right on, with his mouth open a foot, through all the noise of the cons walking down the tiers on their way to take a bath.

Another time, 25 or 30 cons in the kitchen saw a screw in the tower snoring away. They could look through the kitchen window and see him with his head tilted back next to the telephone so he could hear the bell if it rang.

That happened so many times later the kitchen help used to kid him. He'd say he was being fed so good he was getting so fat he couldn't help it. He weighed 140 when he came in on the bum and weighed 235 when he left. Incidentally, he was the same guy who lost the blades.

Cons in Break Had to Pass Locked Wire Gate

To get from their cells to the window they went through, those five cons had to pass down a long corridor, turn a corner within 2 feet of the catwalk screw, and then through a locked wire gate.

You tell me how they got a key to that gate and maybe I'll tell you how they did it without being seen or heard when it's so quiet a cough sounds like a cannon shot.

Although it's strictly against the rules, some of the guards over there have been known to drink. But they wouldn't all be drunk at once. They could have been asleep. I'm certain no Federal employee could be fixed, although one free man was canned for bringing money into the cons along late in 1935.

There was a heavy fog Friday morning when the boys went out the window. That gives the outside crew an out, even though the cons had to parade through an oscillating searchlight as bright as a navy battleship's. They also had to dodge a prowler car which patrols the island all night with a couple of guards in it.

Prisoners Had to Pass Under Guard Towers

The way they came out they missed the wire fence, but they must have passed across a broad patch of lawn in the glare of the light and almost under one of the main guard towers—within 100 feet of where Joe Bowers was killed in 1937 trying to climb the incinerator fence.

The way the thing worked makes

Barker's Alcatraz Death Predicted by P. F. Reed

Doc Barker's fate was in the cards.

Two months ago, in the New York Journal and American, P. F. Reed, Alcatraz ex-convict, hinted of trouble to come:

"He (Barker) has been in more trouble than anyone on the Rock..."

The Doc's trouble-making ended in death following an ill-fated bolt for freedom.

P. F. Reed tells all about it today—and will tell more in tomorrow's instalment of this gripping "inside" story.

it obvious that it was planned for months in advance. The circumstances make it impossible for the break to have been one undertaken on the spur of the moment.

Barker unquestionably was the leader of the gang because he was the only one who had any guts and a little sense mixed with it. There's also the fact that there have been five attempts to escape Alcatraz, and he was cut in on all of them but two.

The second trick, when Ralph and Ted Cole went out the mat shop window and disappeared, he was kept in the cell house. There were five others besides Barker supposed to go that time. Three out of the five were in the shop when Roe and Cole pushed out the window they'd had fixed for weeks, climbed to the ground, twisted the lock off the gate and disappeared, headed for the Golden Gate.

Roe and Cole Believed

Drowned in Escape

The D. J.'s claim Roe and Cole drowned trying to swim the Gate, but 80 per cent of the cons believe they're free and going strong.

Anyway, they gave Barker and the rest the double-cross because they didn't even tell the three who were in the mat shop that they were on their way. They just scammed. The other two lost their guts and watched them leave. All they were off Little Alcatraz, a rock jutting out of the water 40 feet from the island proper. Barker missed again when they

was knocked off and Franklin was crippled in the deal.

Barker would probably have got his then if he'd been in the position to be there.

Barker Let Out Only On Special Occasions

But that was after the Cole and Roe beef and Barker was laid in and wasn't let out except on special occasions. These were when an army transport would come in and they'd need extra men in the laundry. The rest of the cons were logical candidates for the caper.

"Casey" Young was nothing but a loud-mouthed kid, with a lot of gab and no guts. But he had a record as a trouble-maker. He also had a reputation—or thought he had—that he had to keep up in there. The only thing that

pushed him into this was his reputation, not guts.

Stamphill Once Tried to Flee Reform School

Rufus McCain was an ex-convict gun guard at Tucker Farm, Arkansas. He wasn't very well thought of on the Rock. He was the one who carried in the shiv on the Cline beef and attempted to cut another con's throat.

The popular opinion was that he was in on the Cline deal and that it turned out to be a little too rough for him. So he had to pull something to get himself locked up and safely out of the way. That way they couldn't say he was yellow.

Stamphill is nothing but a punk kid, too. With the time he's got—life—he naturally thinks he's tough and he's trying to convince everybody else. He's had three or four fights and lost every one of

them. His hottest performance was an attempt to escape from Oklahoma reform school.

I don't remember Martin, although I might if I had a picture of him.

With a line-up like that, it naturally becomes a question why the officials didn't take more precautions to make sure they wouldn't figure a new angle for checkin' on the Rock.

After all, the Cline case showed the cons they had nothing to lose by attempting to break, especially those doing life. It looked like the worst they could get was a bullet or another life sentence. And, after all, what's one life sentence more or less.

(Another of the series of stories about Alcatraz, by P. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz," will appear in the New York Journal and American tomorrow.)

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Hire Six 'Mourners' to Bury 'Doc' Barker

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—(P)—Arthur ("Doc") Barker, notorious midwestern murderer and kidnaper, was buried yesterday while prison officials tried to unravel the mystery of how he led an attempted break from "impregnable" Alcatraz. Six dry-eyed men, all paid for their presence, stood beside the grave as Barker was buried.

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 Gurne

Escapes, Mutinies on Alcatraz Recounted

The recent history of eerie Alcatraz, the rock-like, somber home of big shots of crimeland, has been punctuated many times by spectacular breaks, mutinies and riots since it became a federal prison.

Not the least among these upheavals was the one in 1939 when Arthur ("Doc") Barker was killed, another was shot and three other luckless badmen were recaptured after a wild gun battle.

With Doc Barker was Dale Stampfill, 27, who was serving life for kidnaping. He was shot, but later recovered.

Rufus McGain, 36, 99-year term for bank robbery and kidnaping; Henry Young, 28, doing twenty years for bank robbery, and William Martin, 25, Negro, gave up without a struggle when Barker fell victim of guardsmen's guns.

But this break was short-lived. It lasted just long enough for the five to saw five bars from their windows and make a run for it.

TWO ESCAPE

Another sensational break, one that has never been solved, came in December of 1937, two years before the Doc Barker break, when Ralph Roe, 29 year old robber, and Theodore Cole, 23, one of the Oklahoma badlands boys, made a successful dash from the prison and vanished in the fog-shrouded bay, never to be heard from again.

Whether they made good their getaway has always been prob-

lematical, for their disappearance was complete—their bodies were never recovered.

Cole and Roe had steeled themselves for the bitterly cold waters of the bay by taking increasingly longer cold showers in the Rock's bathhouse for days before they turned up missing.

PHANTOM BOAT SOUGHT

A "phantom boat" was sought for years in connection with the break, authorities believing confederates of the desperadoes might have assisted them after they had cleared the fogbound island by swimming.

Less sensational and more quietly conceived and executed attempts to break from the Rock have been listed down through the years since the U. S. government took over Alcatraz for its Number One stronghold for the former Number One badmen of the country.

100 IN MUTINY

But there have been repeated flare ups and riots, stabbings and killings. January 21, 1938, found 100 prisoners in a wild mutiny. Participants were put on bread and water and were jammed into solitary.

April 27, of the same year, Joe ("Dutch") Bowers, Butte County postoffice robber, was shot and killed by a guard as he made a run for it from the prisoners' line.

CAPONE STABBED

June 23, 1936, found the most famous prisoner of all, Al Capone, the "Scarface" of old Chicago gangdom, stabbed and seriously

wounded by James C. Lucas, a bank robber. Lucas blamed Capone for not joining in the mutiny in April.

Warden James A. Johnston was slugged by Burton Phillips, Kansas kidnap, during a six-day sit-down strike in September of 1937. The warden, a strong man, had gone into the prison dining-room to talk to the prisoners, when Phillips stepped up and broke the warden's jaw.

Edward Wutke, 36 year old murderer, slashed his wrists and throat with a stolen razor November 13, 1937, and died before he could be taken to the infirmary.

Alcatraz prisoners, from time to time, have attempted to slug their guards or to make a sprint for freedom as they were taken to and from federal court in San Francisco.

GIRL MAKES SWIM

Anastasia Scott, 17 year old high school swimmer, negotiated the swim in 1937, after Cole and Roe got away.

Before Alcatraz became Uncle Sam's "toughest" prison, it was an Army prison. In 1901, W. W. Vaughan, an incarcerated soldier, escaped and swam to the mainland.

In 1912, Thomas Franey and Michael Mullin made their way to shore on an improvised raft, swimming part of the way. And in 1918, four soldiers escaped by swimming while their fellow prisoners were eating Thanksgiving dinner.

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